KINGSTON PARISH

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN



NEWS

June 2024

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN



Editor: Katherine Harding, Springfield, Kingston. Tel: 01548 810545 / 07771 935732

Email: hardings545@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Lorraine Squire. Tel: 01548 810460. Email: kingstonclerk@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk Kingston History Society: www.kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk

Number 481

Welcome to the June edition of the Newsletter. Not too many entries to our spot the mouse competition last month, but the sharp eyed Alison Lewis was the worthy winner of a box of chocs – well done! For those interested, the mouse is called Mortimer and he will be making occasional appearances, so keep an eye out ©

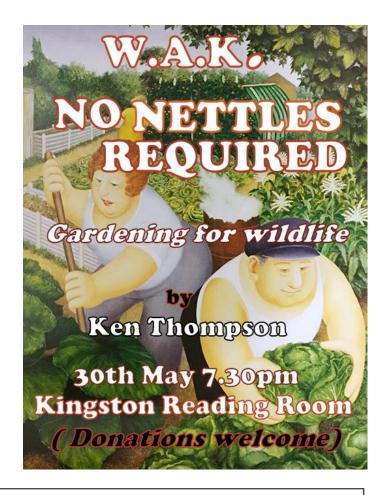
6th June marks the 80th Anniversary of D-Day Celebrations and Kingston will raise and fly the flag of peace from the Church tower. Then later on from 8.30pm you are all invited to Scobbiscombe Farm to see the Beacon being lit at 9.15pm. More details inside...

Finally, a big Kingston welcome to Ian & Claire who have taken over The Dolphin Inn — wishing you all the best and every success!

Katherine

All copy for July Newsletter by: Monday 24th June please to Katherine Harding.

Thank you



DON'T FORGET -

- D-Day Beacon From 8pm at Scobbiscombe Farm on Thursday 6th June
- Pub Quiz 12th June at 7.30pm in the Dolphin Inn
- Midsummer Pub Stroll on Sunday June 23rd. Meet by fire station at 11am

PARISH CHURCH FLOWER/CLEANING ROTA



2024

nd th	
June 2 nd – 9 th	Margaret B/Karen Freeman
June 16 th – 23 rd	Margaret Kelly/Margaret Kelly
June 30 th – July 7 th	Vanessa Walker/Vanessa W
July 14 th – 21 st	Ruth Jarvis/Lucy Eatwell
July 28 th – Aug 4 th	Jeanne Curtis/Jeanne Curtis
Aug 11 th – 18 th	Penny & Rachel/ Vanessa
Aug 25 th – Sept 1 st	Margaret B/Margaret B
Sept 8 th – 15 th	Vanessa W/Vanessa W
Sept 22 nd – 29 th	HARVEST – ALL/Carol Beard

KINGSTON READING ROOM 200 CLUB

The numbers drawn in the May 2024 draw are as follows:

189	Sue Parry	£20
164	John Sibley	£20
86	Jennie Jarvis	£15
181	Katy Watkins	£15
27	Roger Parry	£10

Owen & Elaine Roberts - owenroberts10@hotmail.com

01548 810968 / 07910 111471

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

(Also see Parish Website for further details)

Morning Market - every Tuesday 10 am til noon

1	^	1	л

2024	
May 30 th	Gardening for Wildlife Talk - 7.30pm
June 6 th	Beacon lit for D Day Anniversary
June 8 th	Safari Supper – 7pm
June 10 th	Bowls Club AGM – 7pm
June 12 th	Pub Quiz – 7.30pm
June 23 rd	Midsummer Pub Stroll
July 4 th	General Election – Voting in RR
July 6 th	Canapés & Bubbles – 6pm
July 27 th	Kingston Produce Show

TUESDAY MARKET TEA/COFFEE ROTA



2024

June 4 th	Sue/Sandy
June 11 th	Gina/Joan
June 18 th	Margaret/Janet
June 25 th	Joan/Vanessa
July 2 nd	Cynthia/Geoff
July 9 th	Kit/Penny
July 16 th	Jeanette/Margaret
July 23 rd	Anne/Elaine
July 30 th	Jacky/Deidre

TUESDAY MORNING MARKET & CAFE KINGSTON READING ROOM

EVERY TUESDAY from 10am to 12 noon

Come along to meet up with old and new faces while enjoying a cup and a chat.

Freshly baked cakes, biscuits, pasties, sausage rolls, organic milk, yoghurt, eggs, potatoes and corner shop on the table.

Organic soaps & creams, chutney & jams, haberdashery, locally crafted gifts, books (50p), woodwork, cards and much more!

Would you like a table to sell your wares? Just 10% to the Reading Rooms.

Just call me if you would like rent a table, help out on the tea rota or if you need picking up.

Tina - 07796 975291

CANAPES & BUBBLES IN WESTVIEW GARDEN

Saturday July 6th - 6pm to 8pm

Tickets £5 to include canapés and glass of bubbles. Donations for further bubbles!

In aid of Kingston Parish Church.

Details and tickets from Vanessa Walker:-01548 810497 / 07970 069399 vjwalker5@gmail.com



Yoga Classes

Kingston Reading Room

Yoga classes in the Reading Rooms will recommence in October, meanwhile...

Individual and pair sessions available at home or online. For more information and to check availability, contact Penny on pennyann.mcfarlane@gmail.com

07922173343/01548810306

Reflexology, kinesiology, yoga therapy and Indian head massage treatments also available.



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KINGSTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

27TH JULY **2024**



Kingston Produce, Arts and Craft Show

The Kingston Produce Show, on 27th July 2024, is rapidly approaching. We hope your crops are growing well and you are busy crafting and cooking!

The Produce Show entry form is published in this newsletter. We hope all is clear but if not, please contact us.

Could last years winners please return their cups to us by 13th July: Young Persons - Fletcher Stansby, Xavia & Theo Hansadick, Lacey Fairchild & Elliot Calbon

Fairchild & Elliot Calbon
Craft - Jim Dewar
Photography - lan Fallon
Flowers - Rachel Bush
Flower Arranging - Rachel Bush
Preserves - Colin Burton
Cookery - Colin Burton
Vegetables - Richard Dally

Drinks - Colin Burton & Richard Dally
Best in Show - Karen Freeman
Open Art & Ann Scarett - Jenny Kinder ** return to Art Club

O-1:- -- d 1-- -d D-1-- (D-1-1:- 1 -- d--)

Colin and Janet Burton (Dolphin Lodge)
ProduceinKingston@btinternet.com



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Please visit me at the Tuesday Morning Market in the Reading Room, or call: 07796 975291 or email: tina mears@hotmail.com

Hand Made With Love in the South Hams

BLUEBELLS WALK

Despite some typical Devon 'spring' weather, the bluebell walk at Carol & Bob Beard's was very successful and enjoyed by all. The result was £395 raised for the church.

S.H.I.T.E - 'MAGNIFICENT 7'

They're off again!

For the seventh year running, on Tuesday 21st May, the Dolphin Inn car park echoed to the sound of classic cars revving up for another intrepid adventure — this time to France. "The Magnificent 7th" is a 2,000 mile trip around France for pre-1990 cars, with a handful of more modern machines coming along for the ride.



Follow the teams on KEG and then do come along and support the crews when they all return (well most of them) at lunchtime on June 1st.

Chris Denham

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MIDSUMMER PUB STROLL SUNDAY 23rd JUNE

Departing from Peter's pond (fire station) at 11am on Sunday 23rd June.

This year the route will be the traditional stroll via Walkspool, down through Grove, Noddon Mill then either up over to Belle Vue or the lower path to Lower Manor Farm for a quick pint at the Journeys End. Then onwards to Tobys Point, Challaborough, the Pilchard Inn, Bigbury Golf Club, Pickwick Inn then back to The Dolphin to compare notes on the quality of the ales consumed.

Dogs welcome under close control.

Hope you can join us ☺ Merv Freeman

KINGSTON GARDENING CLUB VISIT TO BURROW FARM

On 17th May, 15 Garden Club members & friends had a super visit to Burrow Farm Gardens near Axminster. We were shown around by Michael, the grandson of Mary Benger who began creating the garden in 1959.

Now comprising over 13 acres of sweeping lawns and wonderful garden rooms, there was something of interest for every gardener. The garden was voted the Nation's Favourite Public Garden in 2021. After a lovely tour we had a delicious light lunch in the cafe before heading to the well stocked plant nursery.

Well worth a visit.





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SHORT MAT BOWLS



The Kingston Short Mat Bowls Club

Normally meet every Monday & Friday

7pm for 7.15 start
In the Reading Room

New Members Welcome. If you have never played before, come along and give it a try, but please phone David 07768922104 or Adrian 01548 830209

JUNE 2024 CHURCH NEWS



Our church is open daily for silent prayer, or to visitors who wish to see inside our lovely place of worship. Regular services of Morning Prayer and Hymns are held on most Sundays at 9.30am except the third Sunday of each month when a service of Holy Communion takes place at 11.00am. Occasionally there will be a second Communion service celebrated on any of the other Sundays. See notes each month for details. Where Village Service (or Lay Led Service) is designated in the diary for the month, it will indicate that a member of the congregation will probably be leading a service of prayers and hymns. Very occasionally there may be an extra Holy Communion service inserted instead of Morning Prayer and such a change will be noted in the church calendar at the back of the newsletters.

Timothy Charles Geoffrey Ede and Amelia Jane Hollis were married on Saturday May 18th with Revd. Matt Rowland officiating - in the middle of a brief thunder storm! The newly-married couple emerged from the church a few minutes later into the wonderful peace and calm of our lovely churchyard and continued on to their reception with family and friends. Congratulations Timothy and Amelia.

On Thursday, 16th May, the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held jointly with the parishes of Bigbury and Ringmore in Bigbury Memorial Hall. The six current PCC members for Kingston were nominated and each accepted continuance of their service for the next year. They are Jeanne Curtis, Don Kelly, Deirdre Seeley, Michael Jarvis, Vanessa Walker and Pauline Deschamps. Two Deanery Synod Representatives have been elected: Pauline Deschamps and Deirdre Seeley. Robert Beard and Brian Alloway were elected to continue as the Wardens of our church.

Please consider becoming a Friend of our church of St James the Less, Kingston. By becoming a Friend, you can be assured that our church and graveyard will still be here for the generations who follow us. You do not have to be a worshipper in our church in order to become a Friend. We have several exciting events planned for later in the year. Please renew your 2024 dues as soon as possible (see a recent email from membership committee) - or contact Don Kelly who will be delighted to give you further details on how to join the Friends and how your participation will help us all. His email is donaldkelly8@aol.com or phone number 810358.

Our local contacts for St. James the Less, Kingston are our Church Wardens, Brian Alloway, 810692, bja6devon@gmail.com and Robert Beard, 810500, r.beard@scobbiscombe.co.uk

Brian and Robert will be pleased to help you find the right person to talk to and help with any churchrelated arrangements. Please note full information is also on the Parish website as well as the Modbury Team website: www.modburyteam.org

DIARY FOR LATE MAY AND JUNE 2024

25th May - 10:00 am Plant and Produce Sale

26th May - TRINITY SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday Worship led by Revd. Oli Long

2nd June - 9:30am Sunday Worship led by Gil Snook

9th June -9:30am Village Service led by David Scott

16th June - 10:00am Holy Communion led by Revd.

Matt Rowland

23rd June - NO SERVICE IN KINGSTON. Team service at 10:30 am in St George's Modbury

30th June - 9:30am Sunday Worship led by Joyce Howitt

FARMING FIT HELPING YOU BUILD A HEALTHY BODY AND A HEALTHY MIND II—II

Farming Fit is a relaxed and friendly environment based here in Kingston
Why not book into a session or contact us to come and see what we are all about!
We welcome all abilities and fitness levels

Monday

5pm- Farming Fit Cycle 5:45pm- HIIT 6:30pm- Starters Farming Fit 7:15pm- Farming Fit Cycle

Tuesday

6:30am- Farm Circuits

Wednesday

6:30am- Farming Fit Cycle 8:30am- Farming Fit Cycle 5pm- HIIT

6pm-Exercise Rehab/Open Gym

Thursday

4pm-Stretch and Chill 5pm-Farming Fit Cycle 5:45pm-Stretch and Chill 6:30pm-Farming Fit Weights

Friday

8am- Cycle HIIT 8:30am- Stretch and Chill 9am- Farming Fit Weights

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New Residents: Kingston Parish Council extends a warm welcome to all new residents. If you need any help or information, please do contact the Parish Clerk (e-mail: kingstonclerk@gmail.com).

Recreation Ground Monitoring Team:

Thank you from KPC. Weeks ahead are:

27 th May	Colin Burton	17 th June	Sue Green
3 rd June	Peter Dowling	24 th June	Debbie Shotter
10 th June	Jon Wakeling		

Volunteers to join the team and assist with Recreation Ground monitoring are always welcome – we cannot have too many! If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Kingston Parish Council Meeting – 20th June 2024 in the Reading Room:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Reading Room at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th June. The Agenda will be placed on the Parish Website no later than 13th June. Public are welcome to join the Open Forum which is held at the beginning of each KPC meeting for any questions you may have.

80th Anniversary of D-Day Events:

6th June is the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. A flag of peace will be raised and will fly from the church tower on the morning of 6th June. Then at **9.15pm** that evening a beacon will be lit at Scobbiscombe Farm. All parishioners are welcome. **Start time is 8.30pm** and there will be field parking available and signposted. *Please bring drinks/nibbles to share, but absolutely no glass (bottles, glasses) etc – this is a working farm with livestock.* Optional dress code is World War 2 Land Army style!

<u>Coastguards Beach – Bathing Water Designation:</u>

Coastguards Beach (on the other side of the Erme) has now been designated as an official Bathing Water. This means that the Environment Agency will now be responsible for testing the water quality regularly (weekly during the bathing season from 1st May).

Wild About The Erme River (WATER) – Annual Public Meeting:

WATER will be holding their annual public meeting at **The Watermark, lvybridge** (PL21 05Z), **7pm – 9.15pm** on **Tuesday 18**th **June**. All are welcome.To book a place, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/annualwater

Hedgerows - Landowners' and Occupiers' Responsibilities:

All landowners and occupiers are reminded that you are required by law to properly maintain trees and vegetation on your land that borders the highway. Please ensure that your trees and vegetation do not reduce visibility and that all highway users can pass safely. Streetlights and road signs should also be clearly visibile. Additionally, Ash dieback also continues to affect trees across Devon; please regularly check the health of any ash trees on your land and take action where appropriate.



Additional Protection for English Hedgerows:

The forthcoming Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024, although not yet in force, is planned to include a 2m "buffer" strip from the centre of hedgerows, in which no cultivation or application of pesticides or fertilisers will be allowed. It is also planned to include a hedge cutting ban from 1st March to 31st August each year to protect nesting birds. However, cutting or trimming during the banned period will still be allowed if: the hedgerow overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and it obstructs the passage or, or is a danger to, vehicles or users; and if the hedgerow is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted and because of its condition it or part of it is likely to cause danger by falling onto a highway, road or footpath.

Sources of Information:

Kingston Parish Council website: www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk If you have anything you feel would benefit our community by including it on the Web Site, please contact Cllr Merv Freeman on 01548 810070 or by e-mail on burlockcouncil@gmail.com If you are on Facebook, the Kingston Events Group (KEG) and Charterlands Chatter pages are also well worth joining.

Neighbourhood Police:

For non-emergency police matters, contact the **Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Policing Team** on 01548 851058 or email kingsbridge@devonandcornwall.police.uk

Your Councillors are here for you:

Eve White (Chair) 810289	Mervyn Freeman (Vice Chair) 810070	Holly Rahder 07973 179395
Don Kelly 810358	Joel Wakeling 07546 511578	Sarah Banham 07773 787909
Suzannah Grant 810013	Lorraine (Q) Squire (Clerk)	

ROB BURROW LEEDS MARATHON HEADINGLY 12th MAY 2024 We did it! 26 miles 385 yards. Over £4,500 raised for MNDA!

After many, many miles of training, we headed to Leeds for the 2nd running of the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon and Half Marathon. With an awesome support crew, we arrived in Leeds a couple of days before to a carnival atmosphere and hundreds of students in all manner of fancy dress.

On the day the weather was perfect, the course beautiful (if a little hilly!) and the crowds and support were unbelievable. Rob Burrows and Kevin Sinfield were at the start and, at just after 9am we crossed the start line. 5 hours and 4 minutes later we crossed the line together, in one piece and still standing, although the legs were pretty tired. Izzy ran in the half marathon and did an awesome time of 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Thank you to everyone who supported us. You tooted and waved as you passed us on the roads, you donated and came to our table top and cake sale and, in the end, we raised over £4,500 for MNDA.

Thank you, Rachel and Jo



READING ROOM UPDATE

Its spring and time for a spring clean!

Calling all groups who store their "stuff" in the Reading Room. We are going to have a general clear out of the rooms in the next couple of months and dispose of any unclaimed items.

We wanted to give you a heads up so if you have anything in there that is valuable / useful / you want to keep, please pop down, claim it and label it clearly so we don't throw it away by mistake!

We are looking at a date in July for the big clear out. We will let you know in the next newsletter the exact date.

Thank you!

AFGHAN CURRY NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who supported the fund-raising Afghan Curry Night for Kabul Small Animal Rescue at the end of April.

It raised £590, which is approx. \$750USD (depending on exchange rate) plus at least another \$90USD in direct donations that I am aware of, so a grand total in USD of at least \$840.

Thank you very much Kingston for your support and generosity.

Please watch this space for future fund-raising events! Suzannah Grant

KINGSTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Notice is here by given that the
Annual General Meeting of the
Kingston Short Mat Bowls Club
Will be held on
Monday 10th June
Commencing at 7 p,m
In the Kingston Reading Room

STANBOROUGH CHORUS

Conductor Christopher Fletcher Accompanist Irina Kosogova

Featuring popular mezzo Helen Haviland

Sunday 16th June at 3 pm Malborough Village Hall

CREAM TEA CONCERT

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Healthwise (cash only please) Kingsbridge Information Office Frances Fray (01548 560591) May Crimp (01548 842361)

Jenny Kinder (01548 810750) and all choir members

THE DOLPHIN INN

We are very pleased to be taking over at the Dolphin Inn and would like to thank everyone in the village for making us so very welcome - thank you.

Please give us some time to get the pub sorted out with stock, opening hours etc.

Quiz nights return to the Dolphin, beginning on Wednesday 12th June. Open Mic is also back on the last Thursday of the month, starting on 30th May.

We are hoping to have the kitchen open for food by around mid-June. By then, we also hope to be offering an English breakfast service at the pub which will be open for everyone, not just B&B guests.

Ian & Claire at the Dolphin Inn

WANTED

Grazing field for 2 Dartmoor ponies and a 16 hand mare. Ideally with stabling. Please contact Ian or Claire on 07708 411363 or 07545 675986.

W.A.K

That's us! **Wild About Kingston** got the vote. (We liked the acronym.)

Many thanks to those who came to our meeting on 9th May and told us about all the great things you are already doing to improve bio-diversity in your own gardens and around the village, as well as the ways you are working to preserve and enhance our wonderful estuary. We heard about what Kit and Elaine have been doing around the coastline surveying and counting butterfly numbers and species, how Karen always takes a bag on her Erme walks to gather litter (and some examples of what she has found from a telescope to strip lights), and her plans to help attack invasive plant species, how 'Til the Coast if Clear have collaborated with Robert and Carol to continue their work keeping Westcombe litter free. (Many others help with beach cleaning too.) Everyone told us what they are doing in their own gardens. Brilliant!

Susanna and Joel, from the Parish Council came along, and Susannah was able to tell us how the P.C. are getting involved with efforts to clean up the Erme. The group were delighted to hear that the P.C is acting on parishioners' concerns and are keen to hear what happens next.

We were delighted that Charlotte Rathbone from Wild About The Erme (W.A.T.E.R) came to tell us about the work other parishes are doing to restore the whole river to a more healthy state. Residents from lyybridge, Modbury, Ermington and Holberton are all involved in working together with farmers and landowners, S.W. water, and other agencies, in a huge effort to make a

difference and now we are involved too. They have been mapping water courses and sampling water quality regularly. Now our water courses will be included in the mapping and measuring. Water flowing both into into the estuary and from Walkespool to Westcombe, will be mapped and tested. Step up, Jo Gulliford. She told us about her water sampling exploits, bought along the equipment and gave us a demonstration.

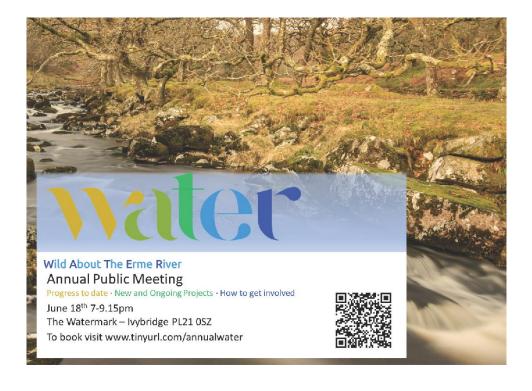
Is anything working? This is the group which has worked tirelessly to get bathing water for Coastguard's Beach. Jo and some others were involved in the counting (and swimming) to get the required numbers on the beach throughout the summer. It's a great start and will benefit us all. W.A.T.E.R.'s open meeting is on 18th July. Details in this newsletter.

So hurrah! W.A.K is officially a group. Some of us are interested in what we can do in the village and in our own gardens, some in water quality and health, and some in both. Our aim is to provide something for all.

And we're off! Our first event is on 30th May and we're excited that Rachel has managed to get the very highly rated Ken Thompson to come and talk to us. I could tell you how brilliant he is, but you can find out yourselves, just Google him. There is no charge for this, two members of the group are paying Ken's fees, but we will ask for donations so please bring some cash. It's likely to be crowded. Other groups have heard he is coming so if you are not in the group and want to come, it might help if you have a word with me or Rachel and reserve your place.

P.S If you couldn't come on the 9th, but told us you want to be involved, you're in the group!

Jenny



JUNE - KINGSTON READING ROOM BOOKINGS

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Spring Bank Holiday	-12:30 Morning Market	-1:30pm Art Club	-11:30pm Eco Group	-9.30pm Bowls club		
Caretaker cleaning	(No title)	-2200 band practice				
-9.30pm Bowls club						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Caretaker cleaning	-12:30 Morning Market	-1:30pm Art Club		-9.30pm Bowls club	-23:45 FOTC	
-9.30pm Bowls club	- 10pm KEG Band Pract	-2200 band practice				
		**				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Caretaker cleaning	-12:30 Morning Market			-9.30pm Bowls club	King's Birthday	Father's Day
-9.30pm Bowls club	- 10pm KEG Band Pract	-2200 band practice			-2:30pm Craft Worksho	-10pm England V Croat
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Caretaker cleaning	-12:30 Morning Market	-1:30pm Art Club	-10pm KPC Meeting	-9.30pm Bowls club		
-9.30pm Bowls club	- 10pm KEG Band Pract	-2200 band practice				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Caretaker cleaning	-12:30 Morning Market			-9.30pm Bowls club	- 23:45 KEG Glasto Par	
-9.30pm Bowls club	- 10pm KEG Band Pract	-2200 band practice				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Caretaker cleaning	-12:30 Morning Market	-1:30pm Art Club		-9.30pm Bowls club		
-9.30pm Bowls club	- 10pm KEG Band Pract	-2200 band practice				

This calendar shows the bookings as at the time this newsletter was finalised. You can access the calendar on www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk . Click on Reading Room then Reading Room Bookings

Kingston Reading Room Hall Hire charges 2024



- Sessions are 8:30am to 1:30pm, 1:30pm to 6:30pm, 6:30pm to 11:30pm. If more time is needed to set up or clear away, then it must be booked.
- Commercial events are charged at £8 per hour or part hour, including set up and clean up times.
- The charge for sole occupancy of the Reading Room for a full day is by negotiation.
- Hall uses that satisfy the objects of the Reading Room charity trust deed are charged at a subsidised £10 per session. They must be non-profit (and may be subject to financial review) and open to all residents of Kingston Parish, be advertised in the Kingston Newsletter and on Kingston related social media (e.g. KEG Facebook page) as such and be approved by the Management Committee at least one month in advance of the first session.
- Private parties for Kingston Parish residents are charged at a concessionary rate of £10 per session.
- The downstairs meeting room is charged at £5 per session.
- Bookings are recorded in the Reading Room bookings calendar which is available on the Parish Council website. Please check the calendar before requesting a booking.

All enquiries to:

Benjamin Russell (Rusty), Bookings Secretary – 07824 702465 kingstonreadingroom@gmail.com



CHURCH SERVICES: JUNE AND JULY 2024

	Aveton Gifford 11.00 am	Bigbury 11.00 am	Kingston 9.30 am	Modbury 9.30 am	Ringmore 9.30 am
June 2nd	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion	Communion
June 9th	Sunday Worship	Communion	Village Service	Communion (8am) (BCP)	Sunday Worship
Jun 16th	Village Service	Sunday Worship	Communion (11am)	All Age Worship Communion	Sunday Worship
June 23rd				Team Communion (10.30am)	
June 30th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion
July 7th	Sunday Worship	Village Service	Sunday Worship	Communion	Village Service
July 14th	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion (8am) (BCP)	Sunday Worship
July 21st	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion (11am)	All Age Worship Communion	Sunday Worship
July 28th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion

CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY

Richard Dawkins is one of Britain's most famous atheists after writing "the God Delusion" in 2006. When I was studying at theological college to be a vicar, I would occasionally see him walking his dog in the park near to my college. His house was close to the college. I was never brave enough to stop for a chat but I did send the occasional prayer up for him when I passed him on my bike!

I am not sure my prayer has been fully answered yet but, a few months ago, Dawkins announced himself to be a 'Cultural Christian.' He said "I sort of feel at home in the Christian ethos". He notes that Christian belief is declining "and I am happy with that. But I would not be happy if we lost all our cathedrals and our beautiful parish churches."

I think Dawkins sums up what a lot of folk feel. My push back would be: can you have the fruit of Christianity – the ethos, the good changes it has brought to western society, the beautiful buildings – without the root, a living faith in Jesus Christ?

Someone recently wrote 'The impact of Christianity on the West is intrinsically linked to the living faith of those who established its institutions and values. If people hadn't actually believed in the Christian promise of redemption, and if they hadn't been able to hope in the face of death, they wouldn't have had the courage to change the world in Jesus' name.'

I would encourage you once again to look at the 'root' if you are enjoying the 'fruit'!

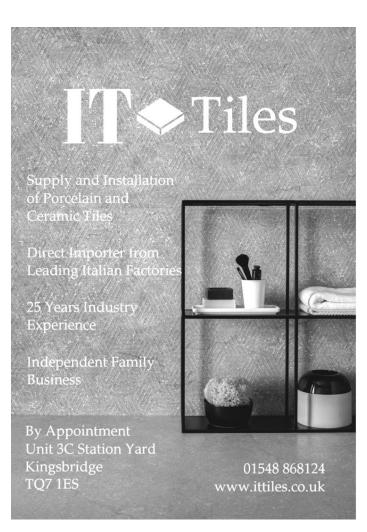
Matt Rowland, Vicar

Vicar: The Revd Matt Rowland (830260: every day except (normally) Saturday)

Curate: The Revd Oli Long (732007: not Saturday)

Readers: Joyce Howitt (07929 117397), Gil Snook (07563 663410), Michael Tagent (Emeritus)

Website: www.modburyteam.org









3 MODBURY COURT, 32 CHURCH ST.,

MODBURY, DEVON, PL21 0QR george@holbrookass.com