

Advent & Christmas Services

SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER

Hungarton 9am Advent Communion

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER

Keyham 9am Advent Communion

SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER

Billesdon 11am All-Age Advent Communion
Hungarton 4pm Christingle and Carols

FRIDAY 21st DECEMBER

Keyham 6.30pm Readings and Carols for everyone

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER

Billesdon 10.30am Journey to Bethlehem (Begins in the Market Place)

CHRISTMAS EVE - 24th DECEMBER

Hungarton 5pm Christmas Crib Service
Billesdon 11.30pm Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY - 25th DECEMBER

Hungarton 9am Christmas Communion
Keyham 9am Christmas Communion
Billesdon 10.30am Informal All-Age Christmas Service
(Bring a gift you have received to show everyone!)

SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER

Billesdon 11am Parishes Around Launde Deanery Communion service

SUNDAY 6th JANUARY 2019

Hungarton 9am Epiphany Communion
Billesdon 11am The Wise Men Arrive (a service for all ages)

#FollowTheStar

Owing to the Christmas season, Wednesday Morning prayer and Sunday Taize events will happen, but on an *ad hoc* arrangement. If anyone wishes to attend, please check with me first. Many thanks. **Paul**

Merry Christmas

.....from Mr & Mrs Ed

Diary Dates

December:

- 5th Yoga: 6th session,
Village Hall 7:00pm
9th Village Christmas Party:
Village Hall 6:00pm
11th Keyham Charities:
Pensioners' Lunch
Black Boy, Hungarton 12:00

Church Flower Rota

December:

ADVENT-NO FLOWERS... but please
decorate your window for the Carol
Service on 21st

January:

- 6th Sophie Bridgwood
13 Sophie Bridgwood
20th Louise Flynn
27th Gill Wheeler

Once again we had a most enjoyable
evening at our Pre Christmas dinner.
Many thanks to Gill, Elizabeth and
Claire for their delicious food.

Sandra

Keyham News Deadline:

The deadline for
KN January edition is
Friday 28th December
Articles and photographs to
The Lodge or
jandm.hughes@btinternet.com

December

John's gospel begins: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [...] What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

For me, this is what Advent and Christmas are all about. Finding the light in the darkness. In the deepest part of winter, we seek that glimmer of hope, of joy, of love – embodied in the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

This festive season, the Church of England this year is inviting everyone to join the Magi on their travels, to [#FollowTheStar](#). Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu write:

"For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists. Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media.

But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Wherever you are this Christmas, you are invited to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome. You are deeply known and truly loved.

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us. Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others!"

So just as those wise ones journeyed from afar to find out for themselves what all the fuss was about – perhaps you might also wish to make your own inner journey. Just as Mary "pondered all these things in her heart," I encourage you to take a moment each day during Advent and Christmas away from all the busyness, to reflect on where you might have encountered light and love – these signs of God's presence among us in our lives... and maybe even a glimpse of Jesus.

Everyone is welcome at all our church services – whether you're a regular in church or frankly not convinced about any of this... please follow the star, come and see... you might just be surprised at what you find in this season of wonder!

Wishing you every blessing this Christmas – may it be filled with joy, peace, and the light of Christ.

Revd Rosie

Keyham Pensioners' Lunch

The Pensioners' Lunch will take place on **Tuesday 11th December**, 12.00pm for 12.30pm at **The Black Boy, Hungarton.**

If you are eligible (aged 60 and over) and wish to attend, then please book in directly with Mark at the pub no later than **MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER**. Their phone no. is 0116 2595410. The booking is in the name of Keyham Pensioners. Please place your order at time of booking.

The Black Boy will be providing a 2-course lunch from their Christmas Menu, the menu choices being as follows:-

<u>Main courses</u>
Traditional roast turkey with roast potatoes, stuffing, pigs in blankets, rich gravy and homemade cranberry sauce
Braised beef brisket served in a rich roasted onion and red wine gravy and a horseradish mash
Chicken breast wrapped in bacon and served with mini roast potatoes and stilton sauce
Cod loin with a rosemary crust, served on a parmesan mash with a tomato and herb sauce
Pork steak on a bubble and squeak patty with a wholegrain mustard sauce
Red pepper, button and wild mushroom stroganoff finished with toasted cashew nuts and rice
All dishes are served with seasonal vegetables
<u>Dessert</u>
Christmas pudding with brandy custard
Lime and chocolate cheesecake with fresh cream and fruit coulis
Mango and passion fruit meringue stack
Baileys crème brûlée with a shortbread biscuit
Plum and ginger frangipan tart with fresh cream
Cheese and biscuits with homemade chutney

There will be a welcome drink and a limited amount of wine offered to accompany the meal. We respectfully ask that should you want additional drinks that you purchase them yourselves. Thank you.

Lastly if you need a lift to Hungarton / can offer people a lift then please let one of the Trustees know so we can try and arrange transport. This lunch is funded by Keyham Charities.

Trustees of Keyham Charities

Chairman's Monthly Update: December

Benches



Three benches down and one to go! I'd like to say a big thank you to my son Daniel, husband David and Keith Wood for their help in restoring the benches back to their natural state.

Village Christmas Party



Thank you to those of you who responded to the emails regarding the village Christmas party. We do still have spaces left so those of you who would like to join in the fun please drop me an email by Wednesday 5th December.

Christmas is fast approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Quote of the month

There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour!

Have a wonderful December.

Samantha

Steve & Emma's Wedding



Our thanks go to our families and friends for making our wedding day so special. The ceremony was lovely and Revd. Alison made it personal and meaningful. Many, many thanks. We are also grateful that we were able to hold the service in Keyham's very beautiful little church.



Steve & Emma Podesta

Service of the Lights



Photo: Rosie

Another lovely and well attended "Service of the Lights" this year. The collection for Alzheimer's Society raised £152.



A Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to all in Keyham **Brian & Ros**

Merry Christmas to all the WI members in Keyham and how about few more ladies coming along, we have interesting speakers lining up for 2019! **Ailsa**

Wishing everyone in Keyham a Very Merry Christmas and much happiness in the New Year, from the **Windles**

Wishing everyone in Keyham a very Happy Christmas and New Year, **Susan, Mark & Kate Lansdale**

Seasonal greetings to you all from **Tony and Christine**

Merry Christmas to one and all from the **Embertons**. And a special thank you to Samantha for looking after this lovely village!

Carole and Tony wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

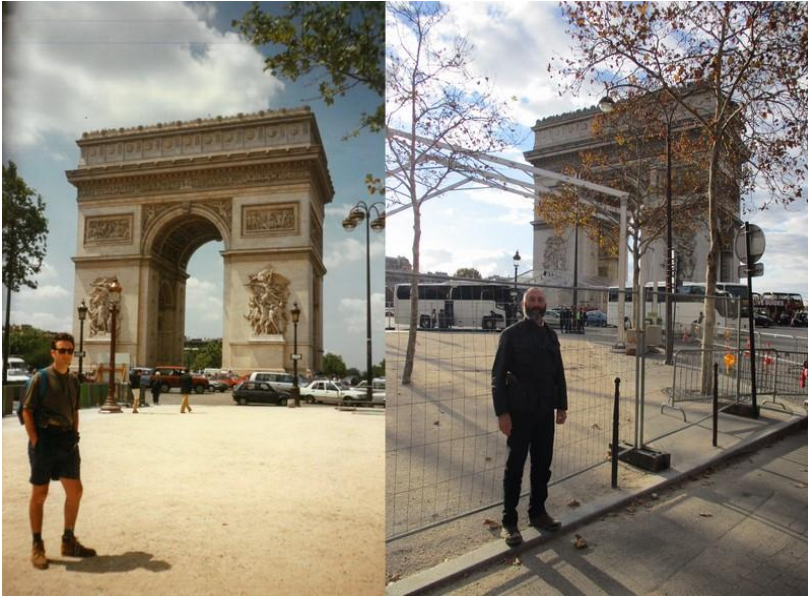
Wishing all our friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a wonderful new year - love **Sophie, Chris and Holly**



Young dairy heifers grazing in Henderson's field

Photo: Matt Stone

Spot the Difference or as they say "sur le continent" Repérer la Différence



Here's one for more eagle-eyed readers. I recently had a weekend in Paris and managed to re-pose a photo I had taken next to the Arc de Triomphe in 1993. Can you spot the difference between the two? **Steve**

Keyham History

Celia Cotton (local historian and friend of Keyham News) has sent us some old newspaper clippings. We have already featured the death and funeral of Mr. H.T. Hincks, Keyham Hall in 1939; this month we include some more routine matters.

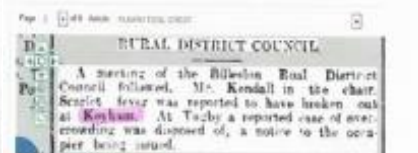
Leicester Daily Post 27 May 1910



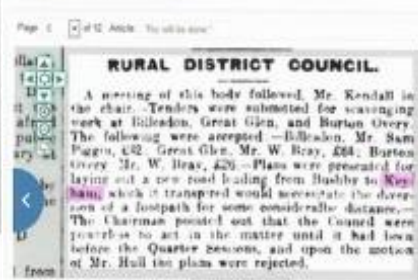
Leicester Daily Post 27 July 1911



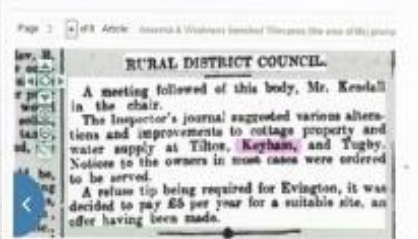
Leicester Daily Post 11 September 1912



Leicester Chronicle 26 October 1912



Leicester Daily Post 17 February 1913



White Rabbits: A Happy Ending

KN is aware that many of you will have been worried about the fate of the white rabbits dumped in Keyham a couple of weeks ago. Sarah rounded up most of them and they have now been re-homed by the RSPCA. The one rescued by Joan has now been found a new home with Louise.



The "Skelton Six" en-route to the RSPCA



Snowflake at his new home with.....



Scampi

Thanks to Sarah and Louise for sending in photographs of their cute little bunnies. **Ed**

Trek Mate

Hikers on the road of life come in many guises depending on their fate they may have hitched a lift travelling with companions to make the journey fun or they may be on their own struggling with their pack the load they've got to carry until the journey's done; whatever is their fate they may just like a lift.

Beacon Man

His shape was draped around a soul at birth a cloaking for our world and a mantle for his light his bright flame a beam for those around to see as he lit their darkness with his constancy.

Oddly

Ladies' Flower Group Dinner

"I wish to thank Sandra, Gill, Elizabeth and Claire for all their hard work in making the Flower Ladies' Dinner evening a success. The evening was most enjoyable and an excellent start to the Christmas Season's festivities. Very much appreciated."

Maureen

"A big thank-you to all those involved in the Ladies' Flower Group Dinner. It was my first year and I was made to feel very welcome at such an enjoyable event. Count me in for next year."

Louise Flynn

IT'S ALMOST PANTOMIME TIME.....OH YES IT IS!

The Billesdon Pantomime Players Present

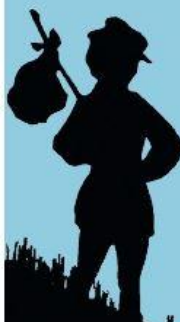
**Early Bird
and Group
Discounts**

Dick Whittington

The Coplow Centre, Billesdon, LE7 9FL

Performances

Friday 18th January 2019	7:30pm
Saturday 19th January 2019	2:30pm
Saturday 19th January 2019	7:30pm
Sunday 20th January 2019	2:30pm



Book via: www.coplow.org
Box office: 07710 605540

Adults £7.50
Children £5
Family £22
(2 adults, 2 children)

**Reserve your
Christmas Tree**

Here At
**Dandelion
Farm**

Ingarsby Road, Keyham LE7 9JU
Tel: 07496 352776

NOW!

WANT CHRISTMAS?

Keyham Lives

Brief biography. Margaret and David Witcomb moved to Keyham in June 1977. Both are natives of Leicester, Margaret was raised near Narborough Road South. David was born near Hinckley Road in the West End, but at age 3 moved to Markethill in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. David – My father was posted there after Dunkirk, his unit took a mauling (as they all did), and their task was to re-form, retrain and re-equip. Margaret - When we moved to Keyham in 1977, it was just after the now discontinued annual Keyham Fete. Somehow our neighbours, Steve and Yvonne Aylott, had purloined the Fete's huge "Welcome to Keyham" banner which they hoisted across our driveway.

How did you meet? At a party. David – I looked across and saw this lass and thought hmm, I'd like get to know her better...There's a certain harmony to our marriage. Margaret - This is a very happy home. Where, we are always happy to receive visits from our six children and thirteen grandchildren.

Invitees to your dream dinner party? Margaret - Omar Sharif (but only for a few bridge tips). Maggie Smith. Richard Attenborough. Judy Dench. Julie Walters. David - Terry Wogan. Churchill. Ken Dodd. Gandhi. Sir Ian McKellen.

Your best holiday? Margaret - When I was aged 19 I travelled with a friend. We crossed France by train. On our arrival in Switzerland it was the first time I saw duvets, proper double-glazing and muesli! David – Anywhere with Margaret is my best holiday.

Who would play you in a film of your life? Margaret – In my youth, Audrey Hepburn. In my more mature years, Sophia Loren. David – It has to be Robert Hardy.

Your must save from the shipwreck number 1 Desert Island Disc? Margaret – It's a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong. David – Plainsong. [Monophonic, Responsorial and Antiphonal Chant, Gregorian Chant]

Your favourite film? David – Kelly's Heroes, I've watched it dozens of times and it's surprisingly accurate in how it depicts the military. Margaret – Dr Zhivago, yes I know Omar was the star of it.

Your favourite book? David - Anything from the Discworld series by Terry Pratchett. They are such fun. Margaret – I like books that follow a historical theme, such as those by Phillipa Gregory that explore the Tudor period and the 16th century.

So David for how long did you defend Queen and Country? I joined up in 1959 and left in 1961 (after that I was in the Territorial Army until very recent years). I enlisted as a private immediately after graduating in law and passing my final Law Society exams. I was looking for an adventure and consequently used to volunteer for everything.

I applied for a Commission. I remember at the War Office Selection Board, the Chair of the Board asked me – so Private Witcomb, what makes you think that you are ready for a Commission. I quoted something from De Bello Gallico*, and I was instantly in. I knew my Prep School latin would come in handy one day. [*Julius Caesar's firsthand account of the Gallic wars, written as a third-person narrative.]

What is the most important lesson that life has taught you? Margaret – People should try to be nice to each other. David – Fate always has it's way. You can't outrun your Karma

Favourite TV Show? Margaret - Coronation Street. David - Any documentary.

So, what do you fear most – Brexit, non Brexit, Global Warming, Donald Trump, A.N.Other catastrophe? Global Warming (unanimous).

Oddly was asked – can rational thought exist without language? Oddly - The thought can exist as anoesis.* That is, outside the mind but within the spirit. [*The reception of impressions or sensations without any intellectual understanding.]

What is your favourite Oddly poem? David – Inner Invitation.

GB. Here is the text of Inner Invitation:

Subtle shades of shadow shaping,
Hear the hush of absent sound;
Gods of ancient night are calling,
Sounds, in silent call, abound.

What is the mystic match that's found
When sound is silence calling?
Is human spirit then unbound
When stillness comes, enthralling?

Your earliest memory? Margaret – Aged 4. Whilst my brother was being born, being sent to my grandmother who ran a pub near Burton on Trent. David – Aged 4, the monkey puzzle trees outside our house in Northern Ireland and the little pony that I learned to ride there.

Where if you could would you travel back in time to? Margaret – I think back to school in Leicester. They were right. I really should and could have tried harder. David – I would visit Tibet before the Chinese invaded it, or perhaps the great pyramid of Cheops as it was being built.

Your childhood ambition? David – To be a lawyer. Margaret – To be a ballet dancer.

Your secret for a happy marriage? David – We have a Ying and a Yang here. Margaret is my practical salvation. Margaret – And David is my dreamer.

Geoff and Sue