



ALL SAINTS KESGRAVE
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO 128
MARCH 2026

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

That's not fair, I have done my homework all week and he has only done his for one day and yet we both get the same. It's not fair!

How many times have we heard that, either as parents or grandparents, nieces and nephews and so on? To be fair, the story of the labours in the vineyard {Mathew 20} lends itself to that theory. Some people had been working all day; others had not started until sometime later. So those who had been working all day started grumbling, but if we take the vineyard as God's kingdom then we start to see things from a slightly different angle. The amount paid to the workers was a denarii, if you like, that's the modern equivalent of the living wage or minimum wage. So, each person was given enough to secure a living.

The Kingdom of God is open to all, so whether a person comes to faith earlier or later in life, each is given the same proportion. Nobody is short-changed and everyone is treated as equals. Jesus uses a common day story to illustrate to His listeners how God's Kingdom works.

Now those in authority would always want to be the first, and the poor and those on the margin of society last, so we know who was grumbling then, don't we? There's an old saying "Everyone is equal, but some are more equal than others". In economics, the story doesn't make sense. But that's the point of this parable, it is about grace, God's undeserved favour. Everyone receives an equal share, nobody is excluded. All are invited to labour and water in the same vineyard, with God's empowering love, rather than compare ourselves with other labourers, with envy of their reward. Christ has a love for each and every one of us, and in that, we can experience the joy and delight for all, especially the last.

Despite popular belief, the hardest worker was the owner, ensuring that nobody went without. God is that the vineyard owner. He made sure no-one is without work. As we approach Easter, a time when we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and through Christ, we have all become justified, we have a generous God who likes to give gifts to those who choose to follow Him, and whether we come to faith now or later, does not matter.

The prodigal son story ends with the father's arms outstretched and so the same applies here. Humans are not good at getting it right, look at the wars that are going on around the world. Yes, I am glad that our Heavenly Father is the land-owner, and that's the difference. Man looks on the outside; God looks on the heart.

God's Kingdom, an opportunity to share and participate in a love that never ends, and where God's mercy is daily renewed.

By the time we read this, our incumbent Andrew, along with his wife Lesley Anne, will be preparing to leave us; Easter Sunday will be his last service. Andrew has only been with us for a short time, but we take

this opportunity to say “Thank you”. On Easter Day at 4 pm we will hold Easter Praise at All Saints, Kesgrave, followed by tea & cake. Please join us as we wish him farewell. Andrew has been in ministry for over 40 years and has well earned his retirement. One thing is certain; he will not be sitting in an armchair; he will be as active as ever. So, a massive “Thank you” from all your friends in Little Bealings, Playford and Kesgrave, and we wish you every blessing and a long and happy retirement.

Reverend Gary Jones

THE POWER OF A PILGRIMAGE?

Hospice Nurse song: from “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”

“I didn't see how walking could save a mortal soul

I've learnt over the years what's in and out of our control

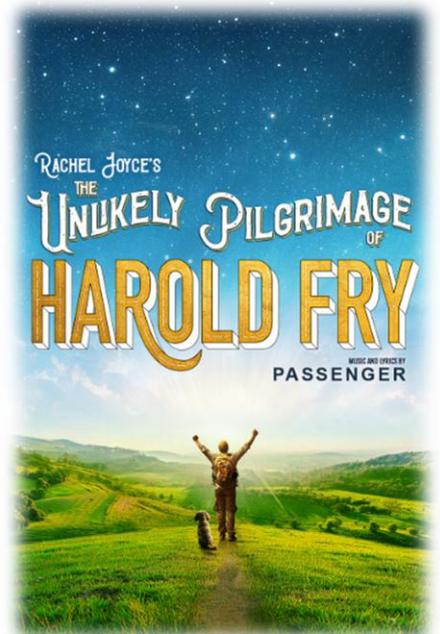
So imagine our delight, to see her carry on and fight

She's a candle in the window and your faith keeps her alight

So although it may be lost on us and frankly sounds preposterous

I think you might be keeping her alive

So keep on walking Mr Fry.”



On Friday 13th February, I went down to London to see this musical: the story features a most unlikely “hero” - an unhappily married man slowly facing the perceived failures in his life, as he trudges from one end of the country to another, to visit an old friend called Queenie before she dies.

The root of the word “pilgrimage” comes from the Latin “peregrinus” meaning foreigner, stranger or traveller from 'per' which means 'through' and 'ager' meaning field or territory ie one who traverses territory. It implies that we are out of our normal sphere of operation, open (willing or otherwise) to new encounters; often needing help, hospitality, food or shelter.

In a wonderful film called “The Way” Martin Sheen plays the part of a highly successful, well organized, wealthy ophthalmologist, suddenly devastated by the death of his son. At the start of the Carmino de Santiago he furiously rejects all support and friendship, only gradually realizing that his companions too carry burdens.

All pilgrimages reflect the one we attempt to make from earth towards heaven: for *“here we have no continuing city, but seek the one to come” Hebrews 13 v.14*

**Sally Wainman – Reader
February 23rd 2026**

THE SUN HAS GOT HIS HAT ON... OR NOT

Come on Mister Sun! I know it's not June but surely March, as they kinda say in Carousel, it's not too early for you to be *busting out all over*. We have all been more than a little chilled to the bone since forever (well at least the back end of October) and could do with a dose of your magic. If we were lucky you may have peaked out a little during February Half-Term and now it's time for you to turn up the wattage and shine!



One of the challenges of being a vicar is that you get blamed (or more correctly The Boss gets blamed) for almost every meteorological event. When it's raining things are too wet. When the sun is shining it's too hot. When it's windy we get blown away. I sometimes think the only

time God has a chance of getting it right is when it snows, and then it must be only for a day or two, preferably over the weekend, and should never ever interfere with any sports fixtures!

I try to remind people that God sends *'the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous and the sun to shine on the just and the unjust'* but to no avail. Sometimes it seems that British people are hard-wired to complain about the weather (including sun-seeking vicars) and little can change that.

What can change is our response to whatever weather comes our way. In a previous era, not that I want to paint the past with pastel hues, it seemed we fitted our lives around the seasons much better. We knew strawberries were for Wimbledon and not Spring. Holidays and trips to the seaside for Summer – just as Cliff Richard and the Shadows explained. And Winter was a wonderland of fireworks and hot chocolates, roast chestnuts and blazing fires, all wrapped up with a visit to the Pantomime.

In previous times I think we coped with the weather better because we had no choice to do anything other! Our modern lifestyle, and for most of it I am grateful, offers us a (sometimes bewildering) array of choice. This has placed a premium on the bright and shiny and a reluctance to be content with what we have. Life would be different if we could learn to make do with the bounty already in front of us, and be satisfied to count our blessings rather than curse our misfortunes. While still, of course, working for change to help everyone live more fulfilled lives.

Our journey of faith resonates with this. Sometimes we might be tempted to long for miracles to come along every day. We may be disappointed when someone close to us seems to get it wrong 'yet again' – I need to learn to not dwell on that as I seem to have an NVQ in 'Getting it wrong'! Or we may just wish that trying to live our best life was not so much of an uphill struggle.

As we continue through this journey of Lent (a word that means 'Spring') we need to remember that sometimes the road itself, and not

so much the destination, is what life is all about. Every step of the way, every success, every slip-up, every stopping in a lay-by for a breather, is part of the whole journey and not a hindrance to it. If we are careful we will learn that our faith as well as our weather is seasonal. So when the winds of life blow hard don't turn your back on it, face it and feel the full force of life. When the rain falls and things turn cold store up the experience as a promise that both will help the seed of faith within you grow. And when, and it will eventually I promise, the sun shines, know that God smiles on all of us and, with a rainbow filled sky, will hold our hands as we continue our journey home.

Bless you - Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin
Vicar of Kesgrave, Little Bealings & Playford

MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 24th March at 2.15pm** in the Church Hall.

Debbie McCallum will be talking to us about the many events she is involved in within Kesgrave.

Visitors are always welcome to join us at our meetings.



Jenny Billinge – Secretary

MEN'S & LADIES' BREAKFAST

The next breakfast is scheduled for
Saturday, **28 March at 9:30am**.
Please indicate your interest to Gary.

If you have any queries, **Please contact**
Gary Jones revgaryjones1985@gmail.com
or **Anita Jones** anitajones805@gmail.com



WHAT'S ON - MARCH 2026

Livestreamed services may be followed on ASK Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtZ91ENd-lxMPUZYDHR5-aQ>

Date	Time	Service	Where
Sun 1 Mar	8.30- 9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Morning Prayer	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
	10.15-11.30am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	United Service	Rushmere Baptist Church,IP5 1DF
Mon 2 Mar	2-4pm	Silver Screen	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
	7-8pm	ZOOM Lent Course	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82337339434?pwd=8gsTyuzxX5oo44i3iZBgG1hjeEq1Y8.1
Tue 3 Mar	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
Wed 4 Mar	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
	10.45-1.30pm	Little Bealings Café	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
	7.30-8.30pm	Lent Course	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 5 Mar	11-12pm	Holy Communion	Fred Upson Hall, KESGRAVE
Sun 8 Mar	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Family Service	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Mon 9 Mar	2-4pm	Silver Games	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
	2-3pm	"The Chosen" men's group	Red Lion, Main Road, IP12 4 NR
	7-8pm	ZOOM Lent Course	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82337339434?pwd=8gsTyuzxX5oo44i3iZBgG1hjeEq1Y8.1
Tue 10 Mar	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE
Wed 11 Mar	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
	10.45-1.30pm	Little Bealings Café	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
	7.30-8.30pm	Lent Course	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 12 Mar	11-12pm	Holy Communion	Fred Upson Hall, KESGRAVE
Sun 15 Mar MOTHERING SUNDAY	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	9.15am-10am	Breakfast Special	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	F.I.G (Faith In God) Family Serv.	Fred Upson Hall, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Family Communion	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	Evensong	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
Mon 16 Mar	2-4pm	Silver Screen	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
Mon 16 Mar	7-8pm	ZOOM Lent Course	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82337339434?pwd=8gsTyuzxX5oo44i3iZBgG1hjeEq1Y8.1

Date	Time	Service	Where
Tue 17 Mar	10-11am	Morning Prayer	Fred Upson Hall, Kesgrave
	10-11.30am	Starting Rite	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE
Wed 18 Mar	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.45-1.30pm	Little Bealings Café	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
	7.30-8.30pm	Lent Course	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 19 Mar	11-12pm	Holy Communion	Fred Upson Hall, KESGRAVE
Fri 20 Mar	4-5pm	Pop-up Youth Group	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Sun 22 Mar	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Family Communion	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Mon 23 Mar	2-4pm	Silver Games	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
	2-3pm	"The Chosen" men's group	Red Lion, Main Road, IP12 4 NR
	7-8pm	ZOOM Lent Course	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82337339434?pwd=8gsTyuzxX5oo44i3iZBgG1hjeEq1Y8.1
Tue 24 Mar	10-11am	Morning Prayer	Fred Upson Hall, Kesgrave
	10-11.30am	Starting Rite	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE
	2.15-4pm	Mothers' Union	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
Wed 25 Mar	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.45-1.30pm	Little Bealings Café	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
	7.30-8.30pm	Lent Course	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 26 Mar	11-12pm	Holy Communion	Fred Upson Hall, KESGRAVE
Fri 27 Mar	7-8pm	Youth Band	Culpho Church, IP6 9 BN
Sat 28 Mar	9.30-10.30am	Men's & Ladies' Breakfast	Farmhouse, St Isidores, IP5 2GA, UK
Sun 29 Mar PALM SUNDAY	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Liturgy of the Palms	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Liturgy of the Palms	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
HOLY WEEK			
Mon 30 Mar	7-8pm	Compline	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
Tue 31 Mar	10-11.30am	Starting Rite	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE
	7-8pm	Tenebrae	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
Wed 1 Apr	7-8pm	Compline	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE
Maundy Thursday	7-8pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE

Date	Time	Service	Where
Good Friday 3 Apr	10-11.30am	Easter Gardens- Emerge & F.I.G	PLAYFORD Village Hall
	12-1pm	Good Friday Service	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
	12-1pm	Holy Walk	From Kesgrave to The Catholic Church of the Holy Family
	2-3pm	At the Foot of the Cross	All Saints Church Hall, KESGRAVE
	2-3pm	At the Foot of the Cross	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Easter Sunday 5 Apr	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Easter Communion	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
	10-11am	Easter Communion	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
	4-6pm	Easter Songs of Praise followed by Tea & Cake	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE

EASTER FLOWERS AND CHURCH HEATING

As you know, for many years we have been contributing to our Easter and Spring flowers by pledging some money to give thanks, or in specific memory of a loved one. We've been giving £2.50 per lily, or carnation.



Sadly, at the moment, we're unable to hold our services in the church, and we haven't been having floral arrangements in the hall as it's used for many other events during the week.

There has been a great suggestion that for this year, we would ask people to consider making their contribution to the church heating fund to help towards our current problems, instead of to the flower fund.

If you would like to do this, could you please transfer your money to our church account via BACs, using the reference "Heating Fund", or put cash or a cheque in an envelope marked "Heating Fund", into the collection.

All the gift aid from these donations will also be allocated to the specific Heating Fund in our church account.

If you have any queries, please would you email Emma, our Treasurer, at ask.treasurer@gmail.com or have a word with one of us. Thank you so much.

Maggie Thomas, Jenny Billinge and Angela Finch.

VIRTUAL LANDS END TO JOHN O’GROATS CHALLENGE EVERY STEP COUNTS!

Are you ready to walk the length of Britain without leaving the local area?

All Saints Church has been a cornerstone of the Kesgrave community for generations—a place of celebration and gathering. However, you will be aware our aging heating system is no longer functioning, and we are trying to think of creative ways to help with fundraising.

Starting the second day of Spring, the **21st March**, we are inviting you to **join our Virtual Lands End to John O’Groats Challenge.**

The Challenge: 874 Miles Together
From the rugged cliffs of Cornwall to the northern tip of Scotland, the journey from Lands End to John O’Groats is the ultimate British trek.



While we won't be hopping on a coach to the coast, we will be tracking our collective miles right here at home. Whether you're walking the dog, trekking to walking to the shops, every mile you log helps us move our "virtual hiker" across the map.

Launch Date: 21st March

Duration: 4 Weeks

Goal: To raise the vital funds needed to repair the All Saints Church heating system.

Participation is simple, and you can be as competitive or casual as you like:

Sign Up: Register your interest with **Carolyn LeMay**

carolyn.lemay52@gmail.com who will send you the details of how to get involved.

Move: Walk, jog, or run your daily miles.

Log: Submit your weekly mileage to Carolyn who will collate our "Grand Total" tracker.

Donate: You can share our Just Giving Page link on social media and with family and friends. Or make a one-off donation to the Heating Fund.

Why We Need You -

By taking part, you aren't just getting active—you are helping to ensure that All Saints remains a warm, welcoming space for everyone in Kesgrave.

Whether you can walk one mile or one hundred, your contribution matters. Let's lace up our boots, enjoy the fresh spring air. As you make your way from Land's End to John o' Groats, keep an eye out for informational hotspots popping up along your route. These markers are designed to enrich your virtual journey, highlighting must-see landmarks, hidden gems, and fascinating local history as you "pass" them. Whether it's a breath-taking coastal view or a historic village, these stops offer a deeper look into the diverse landscapes and stories that make this iconic cross-country trek so special.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!" That is our view on the fundraising target we need to achieve which is estimated to be between 20-30 thousand. This is our first event in our fundraising plan and we hope you will join us on the journey in every sense.

ARMENIA: ANNA, EDMOND AND EDUARD

For those who remember Anna, Mayis, Eduard and Edmond from their time with us here in Kesgrave: Robin continues to organise financial help for them, particularly in regard to covering the cost of education for the boys; the family are still mourning the loss of their husband and father, so the educational help is a source of great encouragement in a wider way.

Robin was also able to make a one-off donation to provide simple Christmas (2025) gifts, with a shaver for Edmund and some Harry Potter Lego for Eduard.

If you would like to help please email Robin direct robin.spittle@gmail.com or ask Natalie or I for the bank account details

Sally Wainman 25th February 2026

F.I.G. FAMILY (Faith in God) SERVICES

Every Third Sunday of the Month

10:00 AM – Fred Upson Hall

In February we studied the story of Zaccheus, the tax collector - a man who had a great longing in his heart for a different kind of life:

However, blocked by the crowds surrounding Jesus, Zaccheus climbs a sycamore tree and his unspoken prayers are answered, when Jesus asks him to come down and requests hospitality. Liz crafted a beautiful sycamore tree for the children, with large green felt leaves and Zacchaeus was able to descend in style on a ribbon"



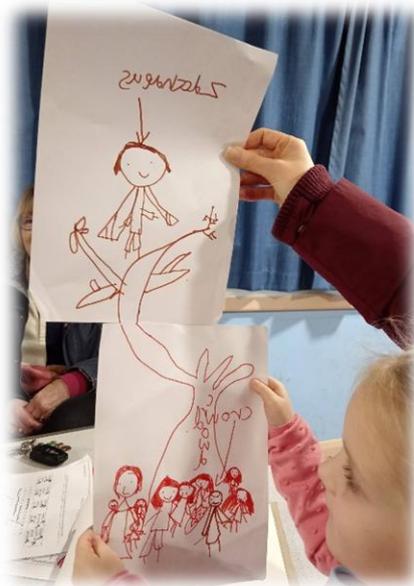
"Come down Zaccheus, I know your name

I've come to save you, your life won't be the same

Salvation has come, to your house today

The lost are found, when they walk my way" (Golden Lyrical Hymns)





Future Dates:

March 15th Mother's Day: Breakfast Special in the Church Hall at 09.15am followed by Fig Family at 10.00am in Fred Upson Hall

Good Friday April 3rd: We join Emerge at Playford Village Hall at 10.00am to make Easter Gardens

Easter Sunday April 5th: Easter Activities in the Fred Upson Hall at 10.00am, joining others in the Hall for Communion

April 19th Breakfast Special at 09.15am followed by Fig Family at 10.00am

Thank you to all who help with Fig Family

Sally Wainman and Liz Wigby

All Saints Church, Kesgrave has had the honour of assisting families in these important lifetime events:

FUNERALS:

Raymond 'RAY' Harry NUNN- 9 January 2026

Thelma Elizabeth SAUCEDE - 20 February 2026

BAPTISM:

Imogen Ada BERRY – 26 January 2026

(although, due to a heating system failure, this was moved to All Saints, Little Bealings)

MARCH 2026 GIVING

*"Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
38 Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap. For
with the measure you use, it will be
measured to you." Luke 6 v. 37a -
38*



Thank you to all who are praying and giving to our church at this time; we face the challenge of keeping the church going in the normal way and the challenge of researching the best heating system for All Saints Kesgrave and the grants and finance required for this.

Regular giving via the Parish Giving Scheme is particularly appreciated, but donations of any kind are welcome: cash, cheque, BACS transfer

For any queries, please contact Emma Burrows (Treasurer)
ASK.treasurer@gmail.com or Sally Wainman Local Giving
Advisor 07807 984589



Thank you to each and every person who contributes to keeping our church open!

Use this QR code to access online giving to make a regular or one-off gift.

**Sally Wainman -
Local Giving Advisor**

ALL SAINTS CONTACT DETAILS

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FINAL WORD

Thanks for taking the time to read this edition, we appreciate any feedback you may have.

If you would like to receive this Newsletter electronically, please email allsaints.parish@outlook.com to be added to the distribution list. You will be welcome to unsubscribe at any time. Your e-mail address will not be passed on to third parties. Alternatively, it is available on our website.

Our church website www.asksgrave.org has all the information you might need. We try to regularly update notices and information as they become available, as well as adding items onto our pages on The Church of England's 'A Church Near You' site – <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2061/>

If you are on Facebook, please like and follow us on our page – All Saints Church Kesgrave <https://www.facebook.com/Askesgrave/> – where we will also upload important developments and information, videos, and ideas for prayer and worship.

Issue 129 will be available from *29 March 2026* – **APRIL 2026**. Please note, should you wish to have something included in this issue, the deadline is *Tuesday 24 March 2026*.