

***'One Church
sharing love,
hope and faith
in the
community'***



**Carol singing around the village
(KADRAS) Christmas Tree
Monday 22nd December**



Inside this issue

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Note:



Please send items for inclusion in the Newsletter to kroberts18@talktalk.net

Kelsall Churches Newsletter Future Deadline Dates

2026

May/June/July
Friday April 24th

**August/September/
October**
Friday July 24th

**November/December
2026/January 2027**
Friday October 23rd

***Items gratefully
received
before the deadline
date!***

kroberts18@talktalk.net



Did you know Kelsall Churches are on Facebook? Follow our page for stories, information and up-coming events. Search for 'Kelsall Churches' and 'like' us.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12587/>

Thoughts from the Vicarage



As I write, we are reaching the end of the Epiphany season and on 25th January in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we celebrated The Covenant Service at Kelsall Methodist Church. As well as renewing our commitment to God we also renewed our working agreement as Kelsall Churches during 2026 as part of our ecumenical partnership, continuing in the various ways we share together throughout the Christian year as well as outreach to the wider community of Kelsall.

The coming seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter will soon be upon us, beginning with Shrove Tuesday pancakes on 17th February through to Easter Day celebrations on 5th April.

That also includes an ecumenical Café Church on Sunday 15th March when we welcome families to celebrate Mothering Sunday at Kelsall Methodist Church. (Please see our church diary for dates, times and places of all events and services).

Although we are still in these wet and windy winter months, there are signs of spring beginning to emerge in the churchyard, snowdrops or Candlemas bells as they are sometimes known, are appearing.

As the days lengthen and become lighter, we are encouraged by this tiny flower of creation symbolising hope, renewal, and the quiet persistence of nature. In a world of so much conflict and uncertainty, there is a sense of God's presence in tiny patches of green shoots.

This year of 2026 also brings some changes, John Diggie is retiring from his role as Reader at St Philips, a role that has seen over 40 years of faithful service both to Church and Community.

John will celebrate his ministry in a Sung Evensong on Sunday 8th February at 5.00pm in St Philips Church to which all are welcome to attend.

On behalf of myself, and the church communities of St Philips and Kelsall Methodist Church we give heartfelt thanks for his dedication and service to the mission and work of God, not only in Kelsall but in the wider community.

I would add, although John is stepping down from formal ministry, he and Mary will still be involved and worshipping at St Philips and Kelsall Methodist Churches.

With every blessing

Revd. Susan



From the Church Registers



We commit to God's everlasting care
those who have died:



Gillian Downey

*Funeral service at St Philip's followed by committal at
Chester Crematorium
on 20th November 2025*

Margaret Ann Davies

*Private Committal at Vale Royal Crematorium
followed by Funeral/Memorial Service at St Philips
on 10th December 2025*

Sylvia Ann Pearson

Funeral Service at St Philips
followed by burial in the churchyard
on 18th December 2025

Ann Boardman

Funeral Service and Committal at Chester Crematorium
on 18th December 2025

Kelsall Churches Weekly Notice Sheet, Facebook page and Website

WEEKLY NOTICES

Kelsall Churches Weekly Notices are not being issued at the moment.

We are now sending out an email to everyone on the email lists of both churches each Thursday that gives the details of the services on the following Sunday and at which church they are located. We will also send out periodic emails with details of special events and other urgent information.

You will have already been sent the new emails, but it may be that your email system does not recognise the new email address and is putting them in your spam folder! Please check that emails sent from 'Kelsall Churches Together' using the email address kelsallchurches@gmail.com are accepted.

If you are having difficulties or have any questions or suggestions please email kelsallchurches@gmail.com and we will try and help.

If you wish to unsubscribe from the weekly email there is a link at the bottom of the email that allows you to do this.

[KELSALL CHURCHES FACEBOOK PAGE](#)



Also most weeks the Sunday services will be posted onto Kelsall Churches Facebook page. A poster of services for the month is also posted just prior to the start of each month and also sent out by email as above.



Kelsall Churches Website

We are now using the Church of England's 'A Church Near You' to host our website which is free of charge for us to use. Revd. Susan uploads services information and updates the calendar at least once each month.

To access the website either click the link below, copy and paste into your browser, or google/search for '**A Church Near You Parish Finder**'. Clicking on the link then displayed should take you to a search box, type in your postcode and search. A map will be displayed with the C of E churches in our area. If you click on the icon in the middle of Kelsall the details for St. Philip's will be displayed. Although it's shown as 'St. Philip's' the website contains information for both our Churches Together.

[St Philip - A Church Near You](#)

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12587/>



Dates for your Diary

Sun	1	StP StP KMC StP	<u>Candlemas</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion No service D of E Awards (Event Only)
Wed	4	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	5	KMC KMC	10.00am 12 noon	Barney's Buddies Community Lunch
Fri	6	KMC	7 for 7.30pm	<i>Flicks in the Sticks</i> <i>'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale'</i>
Sat	7	StP (Lounge)	8.30am	<i>First Thing on a First Saturday Prayer Breakfast</i>
Sun	8	StP StP KMC StP	<u>2nd before Lent</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion No service Joint Worship service Sung Evensong
Mon	9	KMC	7.30pm	Partnership Enabling Group Meeting
Wed	11	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	12	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	15	StP StP KMC	<u>Next before Lent</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship No service
Tues	17	KMC	<u>Shrove Tuesday</u> 3.30-5.30pm	'Pancake Party'
Wed	18	StP StP	<u>Ash Wednesday</u> 2-4pm 7.30pm	Places of Welcome Cafe Holy Communion with Ashing
Thurs	19	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	22	StP StP KMC	<u>1st Sunday of Lent</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion No service Joint Worship service
Wed	25	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	26	KMC StP StP	10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm	Barney's Buddies PCC Meeting Deanery Synod



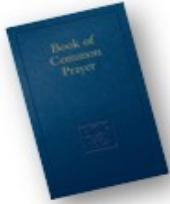
MARCH

Sun	1	StP StP KMC	<u>2nd Sunday of Lent</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion No service
Wed	4	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	5	KMC KMC	10.00am 12 noon	Barney's Buddies Community Lunch
Sat	7	StP (Lounge)	8.30am	First Thing on a First Saturday Prayer Breakfast
Mon	9	StP StP KMC	<u>3rd Sunday of Lent</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion No service Joint Worship service
Wed	11	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome cafe
Thurs	12	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Fri	13	KMC	7 for 7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks 'The Choral'
Sun	15	StP StP KMC	<u>Mothering Sunday</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion No service Family Worship Café Church
Wed	18	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	19	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	22	StP StP KMC	<u>5th Sunday of Lent</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship No service
Wed	25	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	26	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	29	StP StP KMC	<u>Palm Sunday</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion No service



Wed	1	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	2	KMC KMC	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> Services tbc 10.00am 12 noon	Barney's Buddies Community Lunch
Fri	3	St.P	<u>Good Friday</u> Other services tbc 4.00pm	'Stainer's Crucifixion' -a service of meditation Joint Churches Choir
Sat	4	StP (Lounge)	8.30am	<i>First Thing on a First Saturday Prayer Breakfast</i>
Sun	5	StP StP KMC	<u>Easter Day</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion No service Easter Communion
Wed	8	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	9	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	12	StP StP KMC	<u>Easter 2</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion No service
Wed	15	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	16	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	19	StP StP KMC	<u>Easter 3</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion No service Joint Worship service
Wed	22	StP	2-4pm	Places of Welcome Cafe
Thurs	23	KMC	10.00am	Barney's Buddies
Sun	26	StP StP KMC	<u>Easter 4</u> 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship & APCM No service

Coming up at Kelsall Churches



Traditional

Sung Evensong

*Service led by John Diggle who is retiring
as a Reader this year*

**Sunday 8th February 2026
at 5pm at St Philip's Church, Kelsall**

- *Book of Common Prayer* liturgy
- 60-minute service followed by wine and cheese refreshments

Everyone welcome



Further information: john.diggle@talk21.com or 01829 752608



By writing short articles for the newsletter?

Perhaps a paragraph and photo from a meeting or event?

Have you read a good book lately and would like to write a short review?

Prayers/reflections for the Quiet Corner are very welcome.

Send to kroberts18@talktalk.net



Pancake Tuesday



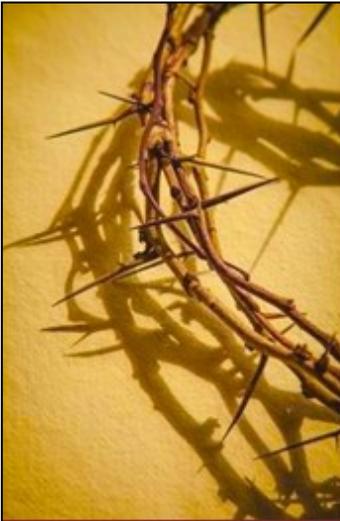
'POP in for a PANCAKE'

to Kelsall Methodist Church

on Shrove Tuesday February 17th

Anytime from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.





St Philip's Church

Kelsall

Good Friday
3rd April, 2026
4.00pm



A Service of Meditation Stainer's Crucifixion

Joint Churches Choir

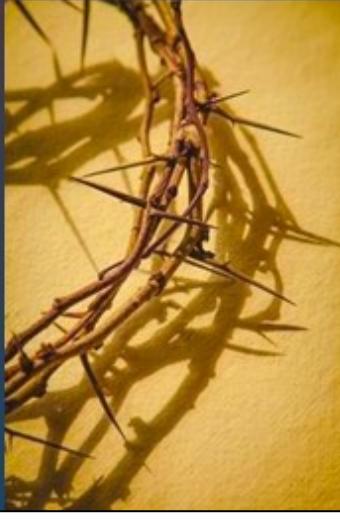


Peter Hunter-Johnston
Baritone

Chris Barnes
Tenor

Organist
John Bowen

Conductor
Dr Martin Cook



What's been happening at Kelsall Churches



Christingle Service on Advent Sunday



Christmas Tree Festival Service, Sunday 7th December





**Right: Winner, Childrens
Kelsall School Reception (Oak Class)**



**Left: Runner up Childrens
Junior Church**

**Below: Winner, adults
North West Cancer Research**



**Above; Runner up adults
Newman Gardening**



Right: St. Philip's tree decorated by the Choir



Christmas Coffee Morning, Saturday 13th December



Free tea, coffee & squash	
Bacon Butties	£2.50
Pain au chocolat	£2
Homemade Cinnamon Bun	£2
Mince pie	£1
Mulled wine	£2.50
Cardberg's hot chocolate & cream	£2
Cakes & mince pies shortbread	£1.50
French toast with fruit fruit & maple syrup	£2.50

Nativity Service, Sunday 21st December



***Carol Singing around
the Village Christmas
Tree, Monday 22nd
December***



<u>St. Philip's Flower Rota</u>	
* * * * *	
* February 1st	Volunteer needed
* February 8th	Norma Nixey
* February 15th	Kath Roberts
* February 22nd	LENT
* March 1st	LENT
* March 8th	LENT
* March 15th	LENT
* March 22nd	LENT
* March 29th	LENT
* April 5th	Easter Flowers
* April 12th	Easter Flowers
* April 19th	Volunteer needed
* April 26th	Linda Dickinson
* * * * *	





Church Walking Group

Another calendar year concludes for the Church walking group which started in about 1997 under the guidance of George Wilson. By my reckoning just under 300 walks later it is still going, to hit 300 in 2026.

I am handing over the co-ordinating reins to Stephen Corlett, it's in safe hands. I have been happy to co-ordinate for the last three years, and have had lot of support on the way from everyone, especially the walk leaders.

In 2025 we lost 5 walks in the calendar to the weather, surprisingly mainly due to the excess heat. The average walk numbers have been 12, 2 more than the year before. The last three have been well attended, maybe because they were not so long. The age profile does not get less, and we could obviously welcome some more youthful walkers. If anyone knows of anyone interested in some social exercise in peaceful places then make yourselves known to one of the group members.

As soon as Stephen has got together a 2026 programme it will be set out in a future magazine and on the Kelsall Churches Facebook page.

Alan Sensicle

Mission Partnership News



On 14th January our mission partner Open Doors presented the World Watch List 2026 to 113 MP's at Westminster with the aim of raising awareness and

increasing our governments influence in support of the estimated 388 million persecuted Christians across the world.

Each year Open Doors, who support persecuted Christians, compile the World Watch List of the 50 countries which are the most dangerous places to be a Christian. Once again North Korea is most dangerous and a place where it is impossible for believers to openly follow Jesus. The worst five countries are North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan and Eritrea. Nigeria is 7th on the list and accounted for 72% of the Christians killed. Persecution has increased in Syria since the fall of the Assad regime and many parts of sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing increased hostility and violence often due to political instability.

But there are also improvements, for example, in Bangladesh, Mexico and Colombia. In all of the countries on the Watch List the church is still present and alive. In many places, it's even growing!

Open Doors quote a North Korean Christian escapee as follows: "If you could see what God is doing in my country, you would never have any doubts again. The Holy Spirit is at work, thanks to your prayers."

Please continue to pray for the work of Open Doors and our fellow Christians and if you would like any more information, please go to the Open Doors website, www.opendoorsuk.org.



Geoff Roberts.

Photo of the Launch Event is from the Open Doors website

David Smith MP, the UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, speaks at the parliamentary launch of the World Watch List



Plum on the Sun – Community Cafe in Chester

Visiting Chester? Walking the walls? Well this is a great little place to pop in to for refreshments. The café lounge has been well supported by the local community with opening times being **Saturdays, 9am to noon.**

They offer a selection of barista style coffees and hot chocolate, pots of tea, home made cake and pastries in return for modest donations to cover costs.

Please do pop along to: Uniting Church in Garden Lane, 66 Garden Lane, Chester CH1 4EY (entrance via the Plum Terrace gate)

MUSIC at WESLEY

December 2025 to July 2026

SATURDAY ORGAN RECITALS

WESLEY CHURCH CENTRE, ST JOHN STREET, CHESTER CH1 1DA
12.45 – 1.35 pm

December 20 th	: CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT (Claire, Jeremy & Brian Heald)
January 24 th 2026	: ALEX LANIGAN-PALOTAI (Chester Cathedral)
February 21 st	: JOHN HOSKING (Blackburn Cathedral)
March 21 st	: BRIAN HEALD (Wesley)
April 18 th	: GRAHAM ECCLES (St Asaph)
May 16 th	: JEREMY HEALD (Wesley)
June 20 th	: PAUL CARR (Birmingham)
July 11 th at 2pm Organ Centenary Recital	: PHILIP RUSHFORTH (Chester Cathedral)

Publicity for these recitals by www.organrecitals.uk is gratefully acknowledged

Retiring Collection



North Cheshire Methodist Circuit News can be found on their website

North Cheshire Circuit

Or search for North Cheshire Methodist Circuit in your browser for lots of information and details of upcoming events and services across the Circuit **Including the latest pastoral letter from Superintendent Revd. Gordon Gresswell.**

<file-999095.pdf>

Museum of the Moon

12 February - 15 March

Installation by Luke Jerram coming to Chester for the first time. Marvel at its beauty and join us at one of the many events and activities that will be taking place in the moonlight, including family events, talks, concerts, evening openings, and more.

Museum of the Moon will be open during Cathedral hours from Thursday 12 February to Sunday 15 March with special events taking places throughout the instalment.

 CHESTER CATHEDRAL



Melanesian Bishops Visit Chester Diocese

The Diocese of Chester welcomed two bishops from the Anglican Church of Melanesia: Bishop Steven Koete (Central Solomons) and Bishop Othniel Gamutu (Central Melanesia) from 14–20 November 2025.



'First Thing on a First Saturday'

Simple Bring and Share Prayer Breakfasts in St. Philip's Church Lounge take place on the first

Saturday of each month 8.30am to 10am (approx).

An informal time of fellowship, chat, prayer and of course food!!

Saturdays February 7th, March 7th, April 4th

Arrive and leave as you wish to suit yourselves.



Kath and Geoff Roberts kr Roberts18@talktalk.net or 01829 752209 for more details.



'The Quiet Corner'
Our regular feature of poems and meditation passages



Prayer of Gratitude for Jesus' Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate demonstration of God's love, mercy, and power over sin and death. On this Easter Day, we reflect on the incredible sacrifice of Christ and the victory He achieved on our behalf. Gratitude fills our hearts as we remember His resurrection, which gives us hope, eternal life, and the assurance that God's promises are true. This prayer helps believers focus on the joy, peace, and renewed faith that come from celebrating Christ's triumph over the grave.

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” – Matthew 28:6



Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank You with all my heart for Your resurrection and the hope it brings to my life. Fill me with Your love, peace, and joy. Strengthen my faith so I can live courageously, trusting Your promises, and share Your goodness with others. Help me to honor Your sacrifice in all I do and to rejoice daily in the victory You won for me. Amen.

Taken from perfectprayers.com website



Community News

Kelsall & District GOOD COMPANIONS

Meet at the Wellbeing Hub at 2.15pm

Thursday 19th February

Thursday 5th March

Thursday 19th March

Thursday 2nd April

Thursday 16th April

Lunch@KMC

1st Thursday of each month at 12 noon.

A hot meal with desserts tea/coffee. £8 for adults, children free.

Thursdays February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd.

This is a lunch for the whole community and all are welcome. Please invite your friends, meet up with old friends or make new ones.

*Sign up via the list in KMC Foyer
or email cathyrounthwaite@gmail.com*



Many thanks to the organisers of the annual Epiphany concert on 4th January, when Vale Royal Singers were delighted to be able to entertain a large and appreciative audience, with a selection of post-Christmas songs and carols. Our next concert in the spring is at Cotebrook on Saturday, 21st March at 3 pm. See the poster below for details.

On Tuesday, 14th April we will be taking the lunchtime concert slot at the Wesley Centre in Chester, with a programme entitled Gems of European choral music, including Monteverdi, Mozart, Mathias, and Macmillan, among others. The concert starts at 12.45 and lasts around 45 – 50 minutes.

Margaret Corlett



 Vale Royal Singers

 LAUNCE FLUTE CHOIR

All you need is love!
Songs of love & celebration

COTEBROOK VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2026
3.00PM - 5.00PM

Tickets £10 to include tea/coffee and light refreshments
Raffle for Little Hearts Matter
Please contact: Helen Lacey imhelenlacey@msn.com
07859 171459



Hugh Bonneville, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery, Paul Giamatti



Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale

In the summer of 1930, the Crawleys grapple with the threat of social disgrace when Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal and the family face financial trouble. With familiar faces returning and long-standing relationships evolving, this final chapter offers a heartfelt and graceful farewell to the characters and setting that have captivated audiences for over a decade.

**Kelsall Methodist
Hall**

CW6 0QS

**Friday
6 February**

7.30 pm

Tickets

Standard: £7.00

Enquiries: 01829 752931

Coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes available from 7:00 pm



Ralph Fiennes, Emily Fearn, Mark Addy

12A

The Choral

As war rages on the Western Front in 1916, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The committee recruits local young males to swell their ranks and appoints Dr. Henry Guthrie as their new chorus master, a man who is driven and uncompromising. Having recently returned from a career in Germany, the others suspect he is hiding something. However, the community discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make music together.

**Kelsall Methodist
Hall**

CW6 0QS

**Friday
13 March**

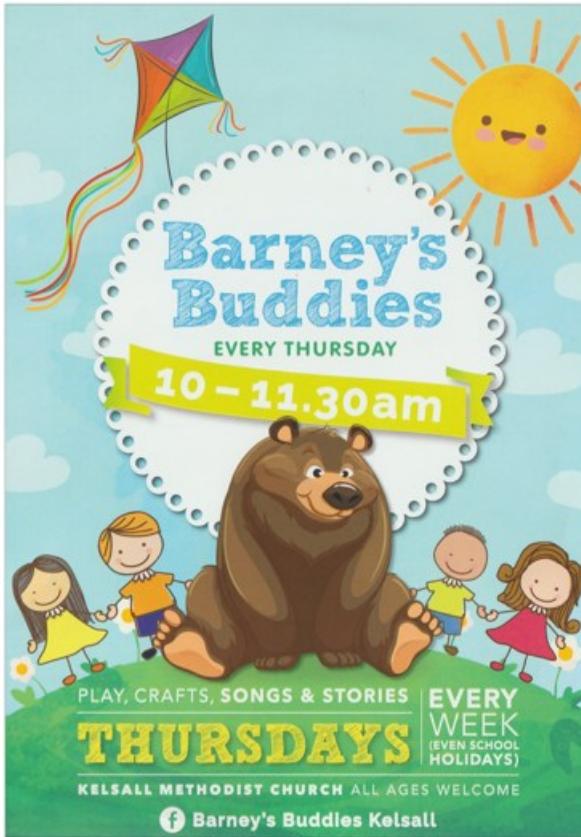
7.30 pm

Tickets

Standard: £7.00

Enquiries: 01829 752931

Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes available from 19.00.



Local Services



*We welcome advertisements
but inclusion of an advertisement
in the Kelsall Churches Newsletter does not constitute endorsement
by St. Philip's PCC, Kelsall Methodist Church Council or the
Newsletter Editors of the service offered.*

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EMAIL: tarvin@jwifs.co.uk

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HIGH STREET

CLOTTON

TARPORLEY

CHESHIRE

CW6 0EG

TEL: 01829 781572

EMAIL: jackie@jwifs.co.uk

74 WESTON GROVE

UPTON

CHESTER

CHESHIRE

CH2 1QL

TEL: 01244 952540

EMAIL: upton@jwifs.co.uk

40A MAIN STREET

FRODSHAM

CHESHIRE

WA6 7AU

TEL: 01928 643078

EMAIL: frodsham@jwifs.co.uk

1 CROWN BUILDINGS

LATHAM AVENUE

HELSEBY

CHESHIRE

WA6 0DX

TEL: 01928 391699

EMAIL: helsby@jwifs.co.uk



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Kelsall Churches Together Contacts List

Ecumenical Minister for Kelsall Churches:

.Revd Susan Banks 752639
e-mail: kelsallchurches@yahoo.com
Revd. Susan's day off is Monday

Kelsall Methodist Church 'All are welcome in this place'

Church Stewards

Janice Aitken	309281
Ian Johnson	261421
Susan O'Connor	751914
Avis Palmer	751053

Organists

Margaret Corlett	752931
Malen Johnson	261421

KMC Council Secretary

Janice Aitken	309281
---------------	--------

KMC Treasurer

Mark Rainford	751677
---------------	--------

KMC Safeguarding Officer

Janice Aitken	309281
---------------	--------

Junior Church

Angela Harrop	752466
---------------	--------

Barney's Buddies (pre-school)

Ann Barnett	752576
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Lettings Secretary

Lorna Hunt	759170
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St. Philip's Church **'Connecting our Community with God'**

St. Philip's Churchwardens: VACANT (Two vacancies)

St. Philip's Reader:

Mr John Diggle 752608

St. Philip's Joint Directors of Music:

Dr Martin Cook 07967 710004 /

choralcook@gmail.com

Mrs Jill Robey 07718 895066

St. Philip's PCC Secretary:

Martin Smith 07538 902807

St. Philip's PCC Joint Treasurers:

Mrs Anne Kershaw 751820

Mrs Norma Nixey 751373

St. Philip's PCC Collections & Gift Aid Treasurer :

Mr Brian Rischmiller 760548

St. Philip's Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mrs Jane Pearson 759108 Mrs Kath Roberts 752209

St. Philip's PCC Lay Chair

Mrs Sue Hide 07890 661826

St. Philip's PCC Members

Vicar, Churchwardens, Lay Chair, Deanery Synod Reps, PCC Secretary, Joint Treasurers and also:

Dr Mary Gaskarth 759048 Mr Brian Rischmiller 760548

JUNIOR CHURCH (Sunday School)

Contact the Ecumenical Minister

St. Philip's : Safeguarding Officer: Dr Mary Gaskarth 759048

Data Protection (GDPR) contact Mrs Kath Roberts 752209

Electoral Roll Secretary: Mrs Sarah Davies 07582 486803

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Kelsall Churches Newsletter : (published quarterly in February, May, August and November)

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Kelsall Churches Facebook page Geoff & Kath Roberts

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