The magazine for the Kew parishes of St Luke's and the Barn



THE LINK



ISSUE 51

Vicar: Rev. Peter Hart Parish Office: 8332 1324

June 2016

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Visit our websites: www.stlukeskew.org.uk www.barnchurchkew.uk

WELCOME!

We extend a big and warm welcome to all those who were admitted to Communion on Trinity Sunday, 22nd May at the Barn and at St Luke's.



Pictured with the Vicar at the Barn (left), and at St Luke's (below):



A full list of their names appears on page 3. We are sure that they will always remember this important day!



Jonathan and Jayne
Armstrong (for St. Luke's) and
John and Lydia Elstone (for
the Barn) would like to thank
all those who collected a total
of £3,092 — almost exactly



evenly divided between the two parishes — during Christian Aid Week. This was a great effort by all concerned.

And of course our grateful thanks also go to the Armstrongs and the Elstones for the considerable work that went into preparing for the Week and totting up all the contributions afterwards!

Hello from The Link team

We are very sad to be saying farewell to David Blomfield from the Link Team. He has been the guiding light behind it since Issue I, and he felt that Issue 50 was a good time to bow out! We will miss his wisdom and knowledge immensely. We need a volunteer to replace him — from St Luke's, preferably, to balance up the representation on the team. Please contact any member of the team if you're interested. It's fun and not too strenuous!

Link 52 will be published on 11th September. Copy — including photographs — to the Editor by email by 21st August, please (NB his change of email address!)

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ST LUKE'S

www.stlukeskew.org **Sunday Services:**

8am Holy Communion

11am Parish Communion (Junior Church

and Crèche in term-time)

11am Parish Communion with Junior Church participation (First Sunday in the

month — All-age Worship)

Every Thursday

10am Holy Communion

THE BARN

www.barnchurchkew.uk

Sunday Services:

9.30am Parish Communion (Junior Church and Crèche in term-time) 9.30am Parish Communion with Junior Church participation (First Sunday in the month — All-age Worship)

Churches Together in Kew

journeying together in faith... www.kewchurches.org.uk

BARN CONTACTS

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Every now and then, I receive a hesitant email or phone call asking if The Barn Church "does christenings" or if St Luke's "does weddings". "Of course we do" I always answer, but behind the hesitancy I always worry that there lurks a bad experience somewhere else, and that confidence in the local church has been dented. So, how to put that right?

Anyone who comes to the Barn or St Luke's looking for baptism will be welcomed with open arms. Baptism/christening is an absolute delight, because it brings another person into God's family, and increases the local worshipping community. Baptism is a joy, because God does everything – we simply welcome, answer a few questions, sign with holy oil and then splash water around three times. What could be simpler! Baptism is rich in meaning, but straightforward in what it achieves. There are images of death and resurrection, of sharing in the burial of Christ in the stone font and in the Easter Candle. There are images of washing, of drinking, of putting on Christ so that he is as close to us as our clothes – after baptism, God is that close to us – amazing. And there are images of light, of new life, and of family. All that is brought about by a few words and some water.

I love doing baptisms, but weddings are another matter. They make me nervous. Partly because it is such a big day for the couple and for the families and friends, and partly because it is a legal event – I am the Registrar, so I have to get it right. However, that does not stop me bending over backwards to make it possible for people to get married at either the Barn or St Luke's. In fact, the Church of England has recognised that there have been too many barriers in the way of local marriage, so now marriage is available to anyone if they live in the parish, if they were baptised in that church, if they were confirmed in that church, if they attended that church for several years in the past, if their parents or grandparents were married there, if they used to live in the parish for at least a year at some time – local, family and community connections now make it possible for people to get married at the Barn or St Luke's without going through the more rigorous hoops of regular church attendance for 6 months prior to the wedding – which is still available to anyone, should none of the above apply.

Both the Barn and St Luke's are wonderful places to get married. At St Luke's, no one is more than 3 rows of pews away from the action, and you can book the hall for your reception (just contact the Kew Community Trust on 8948 8806), so that no one can get lost between the service and the bunfight. At the Barn, there is room for everyone and the setting is so extraordinary that it relaxes everyone as soon as they arrive - it is not the sort of building they were expecting. No stiff and starchiness here, just an amazing jumble of beams and recycled agricultural timbers with a natural warmth and instant "wow" factor.

So please, let there be no hesitancy, no doubt about the possibilities of baptism and marriage at the Barn & St Luke's. The door is open and the diary is flexible – come and find out!

Peter

Baptisms		Weddings	
The Barn		26 th March	David Morris & Li Li
28 th February 8 th March 17 th April	Oliver William Hendrik Clarke Charlotte Elisabeth Catherine Morgan Amber Elizabeth Saffron Tovey-Stewart	16 th April	Chris Latawski & Aimee Thompson
29th May	Beatrice Elsie Brennan & Eleanor Jean Brennan	Funerals	
St Luke's		2nd April	Douglas Coxall
17 th April	George Albert Briggs	6th May	John Millbank

Admitted to Communion on 22nd May:

Madeleine Connor, Louis Charlton, Amelia Hunt, Lewis Jarocki Magli, Sophie Nicolaou, Thomas Patrick and Lara Scotting.

There are 4 casualties this quarter

Private 10379 John A Bodsworth: 7th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment 12th Division. Died of wounds in base hospital at Calais 27th April 1916. Born in Richmond and enlisted in Kingston on Thames. Buried in Calais Southern Cemetery. F. 8

Second Lieutenant Cyril Clark: 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. 18th Division. Killed in action 16th June 1916. Aged 25. Son of Herbert Edwin & Agnes Clark of 10, Fitzwilliam Avenue, Richmond. Born in Beckenham, Kent. Buried in Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension F. 23

St Luke's WW1
Roll of Honour
Board:
those who died
April — June 1916

W G North: www.roll-of-honour.com/Surrey/Richmond_L-N.html says "Possibly Walter Grosvener NORTH, Corporal 1025, 22nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. 2nd Division. Killed in action 11th June 1916. Born in Wallington and enlisted in Shepherds Bush. Next of kin South Kensington."

Able Seaman J/28249 Richard Victor Shearcroft RN: "HMS Defence",** 1st Cruiser Squadron, Grand Fleet. Lost with the Armoured Cruiser at the Battle of Jutland 31st May 1916, aged 18. Son of Ernest Theodore & Anna Maria Shearcroft of 266, Sandycombe Road, Kew Gardens, Richmond. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Southsea. MR. 3.

**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Defence_(1907) says:
"HMS Defence" was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of
Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. Escorting the main
body of the Grand Fleet, the ship was fired upon by one German
battlecruiser and four dreadnoughts as she attempted to engage
a disabled German light cruiser. She was struck by two salvoes
from the German ships that detonated her rear magazine. The
fire from that explosion spread to the ship's secondary
magazines, which exploded in turn. There were no survivors.
At the time, it was believed that "HMS Defence" had been
reduced to fragments by the explosion, but the wreck was



discovered in mid-1984. It was dived upon in 2001 by a team of nautical archaeologists and found to be largely intact, despite the violence of her sinking. The ship, along with the other Jutland wrecks, was belatedly declared a protected place under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986, to discourage further damage to the resting place of approximately 900 men.

There is much to read on the web about "HMS Defence", including a nine- minute Youtube underwater video of the wreck.



Sue Burden, Chair of Friends of North Sheen Rec., has researched Richard Shearcroft in greater depth; please email me for her power point presentation. A bench has been placed in North Sheen Rec., dedicated to those that died in World War One, and in the café is a framed copy of our WW1 Commemorative map and list of the 137 servicemen living within North Sheen who lost their lives .

Other interest – The National Archives has an exhibition of World War One. Anna Gane, my colleague at the *Link*, tells me "the new free art exhibition can be accessed here:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/contemporary-art-exhibition-changing-the-landscape-opens-at-the-national-archives/, and there is more about how the project came to fruition at: http://changing-the-landscape.com/introduction"

Research is ongoing, please contact me to correct any inaccuracies at johnelstone@gmail.com

John Elstone

Social Share

In the last edition of The Link we looked at how St Luke's and The Barn are making use of social media to help spread the word about their activities. This time we take a look at useful sites in our community.

<u>www.kewtw9.org</u> has been developed by local Kew residents for local Kew residents. This community website aims to help everyone "make the most of what is on offer in the vibrant village of Kew." The content is a mixture of local news, updates from the Met Police and local sports clubs, event listings and will expand into a directory of local businesses. You can also sign up for a weekly newsletter via the site.

Facebook membership groups such as Kew friends are great for asking other local folks for recommendations of reliable tradesmen or for helping you de-clutter by offering now unused (but in decent condition) goods which are lingering in your garage/understairs cupboard/back bedroom. These groups are private, you have to be invited to join the group by an existing member. If you're interested, ask Louise Frankiss (at St Luke's) and Sarah Ball (at The Barn) from The Link team to send you an invitation.

Other pages which are worth liking on Facebook include:

- facebook.com/WindsorRoadKew/ for local snippets of interest to residents beyond that road alone
- facebook.com/rttimes/ news from the Richmond & Twickenham Times
- facebook.com/KewVillageMarket/ to find out which stalls will be at the monthly market
- facebook.com/kewgardens/ for the lovely flora photos which brighten any day

On **Twitter**, St Luke's Treasurer and keen social media user, Thomas Liebers (@LiebersThomas) recommends @kew_goss; @LivingInMag; @KewVillage as his top three sites for news and views about our community. I would add @Visit_Richmond1 and @TotallyRichmond for events and local offers, @MPSKew for updates from the local police and, to help the commute (or other journeys), @districtline, @LDNOverground, @SW_Trains (particularly the hashtag #DisruptionSWT) and @BBCTravelAlert.

If you have any favourite social media sources to share from TW9 or beyond then feel free to Tweet them at @barnkew or post them on The Barn's Facebook page at: facebook.com/barnkew

Sarah Ball @sj_ball



The Barn Nursery

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For further information or to arrange a visit please call the Manager on 020 8876 6910 Or email info@barnnursery.co.uk

www.barnnursery.co.uk



Barn Church, Atwood Ave.

Summer Fair

Saturday 9th July 1100 —1400

Lots of stalls and fun things to
do for all the family

Kew Community Choir sing at
1200

an occasion not to be missed!

Abbeyfield Victoria House
Summer Fete Saturday 23rd
July 2.30—4.30
Bric-a-brac, Plants, Books,
Raffle, Cream Teas
All proceeds to entertainments
for the residents

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Dennis is a Kew resident who has many links within the community

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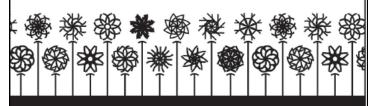
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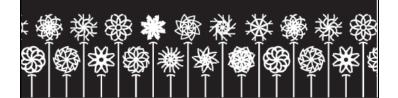
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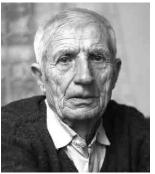


ZANE – Zimbabwe A National Emergency is a UK registered charity that helps the destitute, vulnerable and impoverished people in Zimbabwe. It is the largest supplier of financial aid to elderly people and operates the only network of caring support in Zimbabwe. ZANE runs various projects: the treatment of 1,500 children with clubfoot, the provision of hearing aids, prosthetic limbs for victims of land mines, school and farming projects to support destitute women and children.

The situation in Zimbabwe is worse than ever. On top of massive governmental mismanagement and corruption, today large swathes of the country are suffering acute drought and a major famine. An estimated 2.4 million people need urgent food aid. The first to feel the cruel impact are the weakest and most vulnerable: like Peter*

Widower Peter lost his job, savings and pension when the hyper-inflation hit and the economy collapsed. With national unemployment rates of over 90% he was soon destitute. Referred by a concerned friend, today ZANE supports Peter with regular food supplies and essential medication.

Peter's situation is common. Conditions worsen daily and the waiting list of desperate people in need of ZANE's support is growing.



For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.zane.uk.com or call 020 7060 6643.

Registered Charity No: 1112949

*Name has been changed on grounds of security



Queen's School reborn!

The new building is rapidly taking shape this photograph was taken in February, and a lot of progress has been made since then.

To find out more, read Laura Coughtrie's article on page 15.

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Summer Picnic Party

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LIVE MUSIC ON A SUMMERS AFTERNOON **Kelvin Christiane Quartet**

An Afternoon of Jazz Standards



then



Don't Tell George

Like last Year & Some more

Non Solo Gelato Ice Cream

Storytelling



Pimms





Bring a Picnic and a Rug

If you would like to come, please contact Mary Smith For your entry ticket (info@pensfordfield.co.uk) Suggested donation £6 (children under 16 years free)

Charity 96: 1118800



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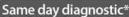




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St Luke's in the Avenue, TW9 2AJ Reg. Charity 289707

AVENUE CLUB NEWS

Lots of new activities and events happening over the summer. Do give us a call if you are intending to come along — especially for lunch, it's helpful to know numbers.



Opera on the Run present "Spaghetti Opera" – Friday, 15th July at 6.30 pm – Tickets £12.50 each An Evening of Wine & Opera with our own Choirmaster, Ian Bloomfield and his Opera Company.

The galloping celebrity chefs Tony Cannelloni and Filipe Filous bring the flavour, the songs and the mayhem to you with all the flare of Coquille St Jacques. While demonstrating their infamous Mediterranean cuisine they will serenade you with some of the world's greatest Opera. Great fun, light hearted and well sung! Everyone welcome, it's going to be brilliant. Don't miss out. Tickets available in The Avenue Club Office. Join us for an incredibly fun evening. Pay-bar available.

AVENUE CLUB CHOIR CONCERT & TEA - Wednesday, 6th July at 3.00 pm - £5 a ticket

Join us for our Choir's first summer concert under their new Choirmaster, Ian Bloomfield. They'll be entertaining us with a variety of different music which we know you'll enjoy. Cost includes the Concert and high tea with lots of yummies. Tickets available in The Avenue Club office. It would be really nice to have a full house, so please do bring along a friend or two or three If you'd like to join the Choir, they sing on Tuesdays 2.30 p.m.—4.15 p.m.

New Activities at The Avenue Club

Walking Group - led by Serge Lourie, starting on Thursday, 2nd June: Meet at The Avenue Club at 10.30 for a cuppa, leave at 10.45. First walk will be across Old Deer Park and along the towpath back to Kew Green with an optional stop for lunch at one of the pubs. Hopefully this will become a monthly activity on the first **Thursday** of each month. Details from the office.

Kew Brewery – A Workshop on Healthy Hops – 11th July at 2.00 pm: Come and learn how to make award winning beer with the one off talk with David Scott. Kew Brewery is based in Kew and uses only English Hops. Their beer is named after the local places which inspired them – Sandycombe Gold, Pagoda Pale and Petersham Porter, all with their own unique taste. Beer will be on sale and 5p of every tipple purchased goes to the World Land Trust, protecting endangered forest.

Men's Health & Lifestyle Workshop with Garry Freer - 4 week course on Tuesdays in the Upper Hall - 12.30-1.30 p.m. 19th and 26th July & 9th and 16th August - £5 per session: This is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to create your own very best lifestyle balance. This includes a little bit of everything including posture, pilates, positivity and psychology. Garry will also introduce a little bit on breathing, yoga and meditation too. All of this will be presented in a fun and inspiring way to help longevity, health, a positive outlook and wellbeing. A life-affirming workshop for those wanting to improve their all-round health and wellbeing.

Philosophy Introduction Course - Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th July - 10.30 am—12.30 pm £5.00 a session: Course Leader is Barrie Selwyn, an RACC tutor, and provides an excellent introduction to the key concepts of philosophy and looks at some of the significant milestones in the development of philosophical thought. You will cover theories of knowledge ranging from Plato to Kant. Explore Moral Philosophy and examine theories of human nature and how it applies today. This course is suitable for anyone, from the complete beginner upwards, with a willingness to read, broaden your understanding and apply an open mind to a range of key concepts. There'll be a nice cup of tea and biscuits in the break to help you put the world to rights! Let us know in the office if you'd like to attend and to check the dates in case we need to alter any.

Special Book Club Talk - **Monday, 27th June at 2.30 pm:** We are very delighted to welcome Erin Pizzey, the International Founder of the Refuge Movement for all victims of domestic violence. As well as being an International best-selling author, she also sings in our Choir. She will be talking about a life of writing, which began when she was captured by the Japanese in 1942 and was eventually put on the last boat out of Shanghai. Come and hear her fascinating story.

Stompin' At The Saveloy - Monday, 8th August at 1.30 pm: A ukulele based trio that turns back the clock to play classic favourite songs from the 20's through to the 40's. Entertaining you with a familiar mix of famous war-time tunes and sing-a-long songs to whisk you back on a nostalgic journey. There's something for everyone, foot—tapping music, cheerful entertainment and happy memories. Let's misbehave! This is going to be fab—and it's free! Let us know if you're coming.

Chess—Tuesday afternoons from 2 pm: We'd like to start a weekly Chess Club. Call if you're interested.

Italian: Pronto! Did you know that apparently one of the best ways to keep your brain healthy is to learn a new language. It would be molto bene if we could get this going for the Autumn Term so please do call and let us know if you're interested and we'll organise a tutor. Arrivederci!

Theatre Club: A Theatre Club has been mooted on several occasions, and with excellent theatres on our doorstep in principle it seems a good idea. One of our Trustees has volunteered to organise the Club. If you think you'd like to join in, do ring and let us know, and we will organise an initial Monday meeting at the Club.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES DO CALL THE AVENUE CLUB ON 020 8948 8807 OR POP BY THE CLUB – WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

KEW FOR YOU

This is such a wonderful time of year for visiting Kew Gardens, as there are so many amazing things to see and do. I have chosen just a few for you:

<u>The Hive</u>: Built to emphasise the importance of bees, this fantastic structure is taking shape and will be open on 18th June. Designed by Wolfgang Buttress, it won the gold medal at the 2015 Milan Expo. Built with 170,000 parts and 200 types of components, it is an extraordinary representation



of a beehive, to show the relationship between bees and plants and explain the crucial role of bees as pollinators. 17m tall and 15m wide, it will still look light and delicate. Sound recordings will be played, although bees are deaf and communicate by vibration. The Hive will be 3 or 4 degrees cooler inside, lit by twinkling lights. It will be accessible to wheel chair users and push chairs. Kew Guides and Kew Explainers will bring the structure to life and tell stories. The wild flower meadow in front of the Hive will include over 34 different native UK plant species that provide forage for bees.

<u>The Broad Walk:</u> well worth a stroll along its 300m length, from the Orangery to the Palm House Pond. It is undergoing a complete redesign to create stunning new herbaceous borders. There is also a unique opportunity to sponsor one of the 18 new benches to be positioned along the borders. A new irrigation system has been installed and it should be completed by July 2016, when there will be three weekends of briefings for visitors:

30th and 31st July: History and design weekend, what is a Broad walk, gardening and botany.

13th and 14th August: Horticultural Weekend, about plant science and how to make their own garden or window box.

27th, 28th and 29th August: Beauty of the Borders weekend to admire the beauty of the planting scheme for aesthetic reasons alone.

New Cafe: In Museum Number 1: opening 16th June (tbc), come and enjoy the fresh produce.

<u>Plant of the Month Guided Tours:</u> Every Tuesday at 11.30am and 2.30pm, for a maximum of 1hr 30 min. Price adult £5, Friends of Kew £4, Concessions £4 and Child £1. Meet at the Guides Desk, Victoria Gate. You will learn an amazing amount about different plants each month and will see historic Herbarium specimens, artefacts from the Economic Botany Collection or visit the Jodrell Laboratory to see science in action. All locations are wheel chair accessible. Maximum 15 places per tour. Featured plants coming:- in June: Legumes, July: Economic plants in the Mediterranean Garden, August: Salvias.

<u>Fun for Children:</u> There is a great play area for children in Kew Gardens, called The Log Trail. Situated near the River and the Badger Sett, it combines great fun balancing along enormous logs, with finding out the names of the all different trees involved. Judging by the delight shown by the children, it is well worth a visit. It is designed for children aged 7 and upwards. Trees included in the trail are beech, ash, oak, eucalyptus and pine.

Kew Gardens makes everyone welcome: there is a specially adapted Discovery Bus to enable groups of all levels of ability to enjoy the Gardens. Each tour takes about an hour and a minimum of two carers should accompany each group. British Sign Language guided tours are available. Walking tours are also available for visitors with mobility difficulties or sensory loss. To arrange a tour phone 020 8332 5643 or email tours@kew.org

Early Opening for Friends: till 30th September, by Victoria gate only, from 8 to 10am.

<u>And finally:</u> Remember to book for **Kew the Music** 12th to 17th July, and **Kew the Movies**: 24th to 25th August and 7th to 8th September.



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References available.

Flat 3, 42 Merritt Gdns, Chessington, KT9 2GJ

Tel: 020 8391 1545 or 07581 404000

Diary of Events & Services at St Luke's and The Barn

June

Saturday 25th St Luke's Beetle Drive

July

Saturday 9th 11am-2pm Barn Summer Fair

Sunday 17th 9.30 & 11am End of School Year services

August The Vicar will be on sabbatical from the end of August until the end of November

September

Saturday 17th 7.30pm Murder Mystery Evening (St Luke's)

Sunday 25th 9.30am Barn Stewardship

ST LUKE'S MAY BALL — SATURDAY 14th MAY

This year our 8th May Ball was held in celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday so the hall looked even more stunning than ever, not only with beautiful floral decorations on the tables, but also with a large flag, with a central picture of the Queen, above the stage and plenty of Union Jack bunting all round the hall! The whole event went with a swing, due to the 80 people who came along and created a splendid atmosphere. The weather beforehand was decidedly cool and damp, but as usual the sun came out on the day, so that everybody could enjoy their welcoming glass of Prosecco out in the garden, before going inside for dinner.



The team excelled themselves with the food by preparing and

cooking three delicious courses, followed by cheese if people wanted some after the meal. This year the menu had a decidedly regal flavour with a first course of Sandringham Salad, Stilton Cheese and Chicory, followed by Windsor Salmon with Roasted Vegetables and crowned with Royal Panna Cotta with Raspberries.

After the meal, **Fat Chance** enticed everybody to get up and dance to their splendid music, so that the floor was continually full with happy dancers from then on. This band has supported us for all our May Balls and we are very grateful to them. It is always a delight to see the response to their music. Throughout the evening, guests also enjoyed a Wishing Tree, with masses of Mystery Gifts of different values and also a Silent Auction, in which people could bid for a large range of splendid prizes.

As usual, congratulations and many thanks are due to the Social Committee and to all the people who worked hard to make the evening such a success. One group gave their time to set everything up the evening before and another team of helpers came on the day to create the beautiful effects in the hall. A whole group of young people acted as waiters. At the end of the evening, yet more people stayed behind to clear the hall. In total, we raised the splendid amount of £5,145 of which £1,000 is going to the Avenue Club and the rest to Church funds.

PROFILE - THOMAS LIEBERS

Born in East Germany, married to a Romanian and bringing up his two children, Heidi and Mark, in Kew Riverside Development, Thomas Liebers – if you don't already know him – is a wonderful contributor to the church, our community and to this country.

He spent the first few months of his life in Dresden but when his father was 'not quite political enough' to be granted a research job in electronics at the university, the family moved to Plauen very near the border between east and west Germany. Plauen wasn't more liberal but a memorable difference Thomas noticed in the first nine years of his life was that they had five TV channels in Plauen whereas his cousins in Dresden only had three! Plauen was one of the first towns where the revolution that brought down the Berlin Wall began in 1989. After that what Thomas witnessed as he grew up was the gradual change in what they were allowed to learn at school and the freedom to cross borders and travel. He took a three year apprenticeship in carpentry and in 1999



Tjomas and Laura arriving for the St. Luke's May Ball

moved to Nuremburg, where he worked in a hospital and decided to train as a nurse. Being part of the EU his nursing qualification was recognised in other EU countries and he wanted to work abroad. Laughingly he told me he couldn't speak a lot of French so he chose Britain, implying that he could speak English in spite of never having lived here before – how many of us could say that about a second language?! He moved here in 2003 and worked for 6 months in a hospital in Truro and then for a few years in various nursing roles in Surrey and Hampshire. He became a NVQ assessor and worked for the University of Surrey as a research nurse at the Surrey Clinical Research Centre, in a clinical trials unit with particular expertise in sleep, psychopharmacology. In 2008 he got a job in a pharmaceutical company, Solvay, and in the same year met his wife Laura at an EU team meeting in Hannover. He now works for Amgen, one of the largest bio-pharmaceutical companies, that discovers and develops innovative therapies to treat serious illnesses. His specialism is in communicating with patients and healthcare professionals, and this has come in very useful in his work for St. Luke's and the community.

What surprised me was that Lutheran worship was widespread and tolerated in mid-80's communist East Germany as long as it wasn't making "too much noise". Thomas's family went to church every Sunday and church was part of their life. He played in the church brass band and went on church holidays – there was little money for anything more expensive. His father always looked after the church finances. Thomas moved to Kew in 2009 and very quickly joined St Luke's. On a Saturday in 2010, surrounded by family and guests, he married Laura and on the Sunday their daughter, Heidi, was baptised at St Luke's. He became a member of the PCC in 2011 and in 2014, following in his father's footsteps, became Treasurer.

As Treasurer he has been focussing on three things:

- Switching to an electronic bookkeeping system
- Enabling people to give in different ways e.g. through tax efficient 'give as you earn' schemes, as well as online donations through PayPal and credit cards
- Making the church finances more transparent with regular updates to the congregation detailing income and expenditure, including how charitable donations and other large outgoings are being spent.

He has been involved in implementing the Parish Support Fund, which has replaced the quota system and encourages each parish to give what they can afford towards the work of the diocese; and with Ruth Gledhill from The Barn Church he is involved with building a more integrated social media and communications strategy including St. Luke's Church online presence on Facebook and Twitter.

In 2013 he gained dual British/German nationality and is very committed to this country to which he has developed a strong bond. Recently he helped launch kewtw9.org, a new community website, giving information on local events and amenities. He is concerned about pollution in our area and other local issues, has joined the Liberal Democrats and is actively campaigning to remain in the European Union. A true European, he is a huge asset to our church and community.



NOTICE BOARD

GENERAL

St. Luke's House

Debbie Fife **8940 2791**

The Kew Society

Conserves and enhances the ethos of Kew, environmentally and topically. New residents welcome. Sue May 8940 8724

membership@kewsociety.org

Kew Sinfonia

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8876 9318

Kew Horticultural Society

Annual show August Bank Holiday Saturday. Outings and talks.

8948 7254

Kew Wind Orchestra

King's House School, King's Rd, Richmond. All ages, Thurs, 8pm.

8876 2192

Tea & Art Club

for over 50s Thurs 11-12

Pensford Field. Pam: 07500 178578

Kew Neighbourhood Assn

offers help with transport to medical appointments and the Avenue Club, together with befriending and shopping.

8948 8054 weekdays 10-12 for help and offers of help.

Kew Community Trust

runs Avenue Club - social activities for older people. David Polya

8948 8806

Rotary Club of Kew

Coach & Horses, Kew Green. Wed, 7.30 for 8pm.

8894 9958

Richmond and Kew Quilters

every 2nd Monday of the month. 7.30-9.30pm, St Winefride's Church Hall.

www.richmondandkewquilters.org.uk

Kew Community Choir Thurs. 7.30

- 8.30, St Luke's in the Avenue noyesmary@hotmail.com

Q2 Players

Kew Scouts HQ, Station Ave, Presents three full-length plays each season, with performances at St Luke's. 8940 2053

North Sheen Bowling Club

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www.kewstudio.org

Richmond Chamber of Commerce

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Arts Richmond Unit 6, Upper Deck, Phoenix Wharf, Eel Pie Island, TW1 3DY. Over 80 affiliated societies.

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info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Kew Residents Assn.

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Priory Park Club

Bowls, Bridge and Tennis Forest Road, Kew www.prioryparkclub.org.uk

Bowls 8400 1963

St. John Ambulance

8948 8852

For events coverage: operations@richmond.sja.org.uk

Probus Club

Third Wed monthly, lunch for retired professionals, Richmond Golf Club.

8785 6718 or 8994 0396

KIDS

Girl Guiding

Brownies (7-10 yrs) Tuesdays: St. Paul's, Raleigh Road;

Thursdays: St. Luke's House, Sandycombe Road and

the Barn Church. Guides (10-14 yrs)

Thursdays: the Barn Church. guides5thkew@gmail.com

Kew Scout Group HQ

Station Avenue by Kew Gardens Station (rear of Pether's Butchers Shop).

Beavers (6-7 yrs) Thur 6 pm Cubs (8-10yrs) Thur 7 pm

Scouts and Explorer Scouts (11+ yrs) Fri 7 pm

8940 2484

Kew Youth Club

Barn Church (entry Marksbury Ave): Friday nights during term time, secondary school years 7-9. Entry £2.50. jabraddock@sky.com

Kew Park Rangers Football

North Road Recreation Ground. Ages 5-11, boys and girls. Sat morning (training), Sun morning (matches).

07770 755 538 or 8940 9882

Kew Young Musicians

Saturday morning music school for 5-18s. Drums, bass, electric and classical guitar, saxophone, clarinet, flute, recorder and singing. kewyoungmusicians@googlemail.com

8401 6950

8876 7294

Toddler Groups

Barn Church Mondays 9.30 –11.00 and Fri. 9.15 -11. Tues 9-11 termtime

Toy Library The Old Court House, Sheen Lane, Mortlake. £1 membership, plus 30p per toy for 2 wks, plus family drop-in. Thurs. 9.30-11.45.

Richmond Gymnastics Association

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8878 8682

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THE BIG BUILD - The Queen's Church of England School

The main news throughout this last year has been the emergence of the new Queen's school, which is now very visible from the surrounding roads.

The school is being rebuilt under the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) which is a centrally managed programme set up to address the needs of the schools most in need of urgent repair. Throughout the last year, the school has been working with the Education Funding Agency as well as representatives from Southwark Diocesan Board of Education to influence decision-making within the limitations of the programme.



The budget for the build is limited but the new school will be modern and fit for purpose.

At the beginning of the project, the governors set up a project team. Parent volunteers with relevant skills and experience were invited to join the team and a diverse group spanning expertise in both public and school specific building programmes, primary education and curriculum, school governance, corporate finance and marketing have all been involved.



As can be seen from the photographs (taken in February), the new school building is progressing very well and so far is on schedule for completion this summer. This means that as the summer holidays begin, the contents of the school will be moved into the new building, so that demolition of the old building can start.

Throughout the building and development, the staff have tried to involve the children as much as possible and as the new school progresses towards completion, the excitement is mounting. At the beginning, when the hoardings went up, peepholes were created so that the children could monitor the building's progress. The children have all had the

opportunity to go 'behind the scenes' in a safety viewing area to look at the building in more detail and to talk to the builders about what was happening. The inside of the building is now beginning to be planned with colour choices for year groups and various areas. There is a display in school of the colour palettes and samples of the interior to the new school which the children are very excited about.

There has been some serious fundraising over the last year by the PSA which will enable the school to have a number of extra amenities and additional features. For example there will be a new astro-turf pitch at the front of the new school, which will be a great resource for both the school and the community. There will also be a canopy outside Reception and Year 1 classrooms so that learning can be easily extended to the outside environment.

At the start of the new school year in September, the new building will be fully operational. The external site will not be completed however, until approximately the October half term, with the official opening of the school later in the year. The amount of outside space that will exist after the old school is demolished has great potential and there will be much more fundraising needed to make it a special place for all. Before the demolition, a day is being planned for former pupils to take a final look round. The date for this nostalgic day will be on Sunday 10th July from 11.30 to 1.30. More information can be found on the school website and on posters dotted around Kew, so please look out for these.

Further updates about the progress of this exciting new school project can be found on the school's website: www.queens.richmond.sch.uk

Laura Coughtrie Queen's School Governor, St Luke's

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