

All Saints Church

So 2024 has passed. No doubt it will be remembered in many ways. Higher temperatures worldwide, but not so much in the United Kingdom, where instead we have been plagued by more storms and floods. 2024 was the year of elections; here, USA, France, Germany to mention only a few, some with an expected result and some surprises. On an individual level, new friendships may have been made and sadly some long-established ones lost. Children born into the world, others tentatively entering school for the first time and some taking their exams to join apprenticeships or university courses.

In Keyham we celebrated Christmas with our Carol Service on 19th December. It was a very joyful occasion, with singing and instrumental intermissions from young villagers. Almost 50 young and old came and enjoyed the music and readings, the mulled wine and mince pies after the service and £120 was collected to be donated to Charity Link, a local charity to support those in need of day-to-day essentials. (see photographs opposite)

What do we hope for from 2025? We could hope for peace throughout the world. But perhaps for a start, we could hope for more understanding, sympathy and kindness to others, particularly from those in authority everywhere, including those in privileged positions as leaders of their nations and those able to influence us through the media.

May we wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2025.

**Our next service at All Saints
will be Holy Communion
at 10.30am on
Sunday 19th January**

Richard chapwin@btinternet.com



The choir at the Carol Service



Shiv Patel played the organ for the service



Mary and Roger Walker (born in No. 2 Charity Cottage) celebrated his 92nd birthday at the service (full story later)

Keyham Charities Pensioner's Lunch



Some pensioners

30 pensioners from the village (60s and over) gathered together in The Dog and Gun on Tuesday 10th December. Much more informal than past events but probably more sociable as those attending freely mingled and chatted with friends and neighbours.



Some more pensioners



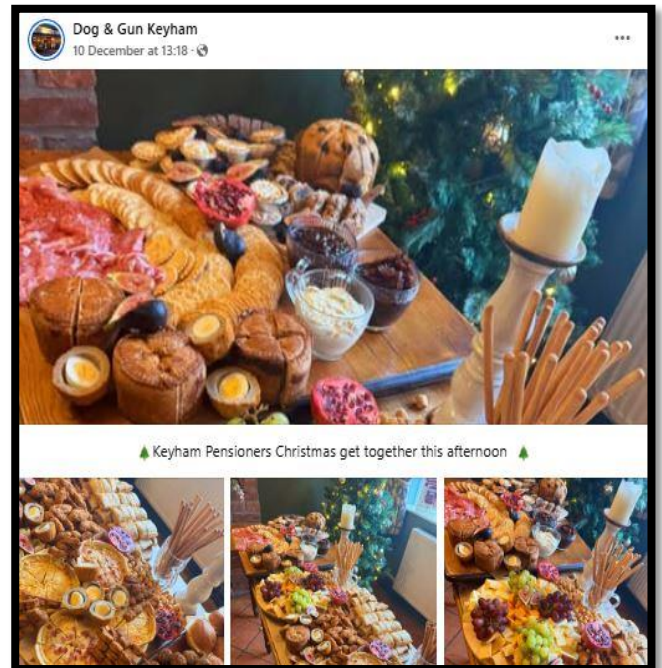
Yet more pensioners



Mollie and Hannah

This year Keyham Charities funded a buffet, with a welcome drink kindly provided by our hosts.

Many thanks to Hannah for putting on a lovely spread and to Mollie for keeping us all hydrated!!



The Buffet

Lastly thank you to James Patterson (Hungarton) from whom we pinched our quiz questions.... more about that later.

Margaret

Food for thought



Here is a photo of the Keyham Christmas Gathering food contributions, being gratefully received by volunteer Allison at Leicester South Foodbank.

Whilst waiting for Allison to open the Wigston based church / contribution / distribution centre, I got chatting with Sophie who was patiently queuing to collect food for her family.

Sophie said that a referral (from Citizens Advice Bureau, GPs, Social Services, other community organisation), is needed to collect food, that each collection will provide at least three days sustenance and that she was hoping there might be some selection boxes available that she might wrap as presents for her two children. I told Sophie that there were several selection boxes in the Keyham contribution. She was very pleased to hear this and rather touchingly thanked the village for its contribution.

My meeting with Sophie caused me to engage in further internet research on foodbanks. I was surprised to discover that Leicestershire "food poverty" (aka hunger) is not simply an urban phenomenon - nine distribution centres. There are also nine rural distribution centres - Houghton, Kibworth, Bottesford, Buckminster, Goadby Marwood, Gaddesby, Great Dalby, Kirby Bellars, Long Clawson.

How do people end up in "food poverty"? The following appear to be the main reasons; low wage income/high rental expenditure, job loss, the breakdown of relationships, illness, and delays to benefits.

The UK is the sixth largest world economy / one in five UK families is below the poverty line. The foregoing are facts. What we as a society decide to do with these facts is a topic for political debate.

Geoff

Looking Glass

Breathe upon the past
and you can make it shine
but your mirror of the future
blown on by events
will fog up to be misty
and only clear in time.

Natures

Keep in touch with nature
without and in yourself
give each a hug and love
and keep them unpolluted
so that both can blossom
and continue life.

Oddly

Jamie's Joke

SEVERE WEATHER WARNING!!

The AA have warned that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take a shovel, blankets/sleeping bag, extra clothing (including scarf, hat and gloves), 24 hour supply of food and drink, de-icer, rock salt, torch, spare battery, petrol can, first aid kit and jump leads.

I felt like a right idiot on the bus!

Christmas Gathering

Nearly 30 villagers got together for a Christmas Bring and Share Lunch in the Village Hall. Lots of produce and donations we collected for the Leicester South Foodbank (see page three).

A big thank-you to Geoff and Sue for keeping the tradition of villagers meeting together at Christmas alive.



Dog and Gun News



Syston Brass Band
Christmas Carols and Festive Tunes at the Dog and Gun

Chairman's Report

Crematorium application:

Still pending consideration. Next Harborough planning committee meeting is in February so I don't foresee any progress until after that, and that's assuming it may be on the agenda to be discussed then.

Tony Johnson

Croquet Diary Date



Keyham Croquet 2025 will probably be on Sunday 31st August. Put the date in your diary.

Margaret



December Sunrise Photo: Rosemarie

Keyham News Deadline

The deadline for
KN February edition is
Friday 31st January
Articles and photographs to
The Lodge or keyhamnews@btinternet.com
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[Keyham Village Website](http://KeyhamVillageWebsite.com)

Roger Walker

The annual Keyham Carol Service had a number of special guests this year, including former resident Roger Walker and his wife Mary.

It was a special day for Roger, not only was it the Christmas Carol Service, but it was also his birthday.

Roger was born at 2 Charity Cottage in 1932. The Charity Cottages were very much a Walker family affair. Roger lived at number 2 with his parents, Horace and Ada along with his younger brother, Phillip. While at number 4 Charity cottage was his grandma, aunt and old brother, Geoffrey. His aunt was Pat Kirby who continued to live at 4 Charity Cottage into the 1980's.



Roger's father, Horace originally came to Keyham to work on one of the local farms and served in the Home Guard during the war. He married Ada Kirby in 1927, who was born in Keyham, probably at 4 Charity Cottage in 1904.

Roger was very involved in the church during his childhood. On a Sunday he would light the furnace, ring the bells and sing in the choir.

When the agricultural worker's houses were built on King's Lane in the early 50's, Ada Walker was determined to get one for the family, and said she'd 'sleep on the doorstep until we got one', which they did. Moving from a 1 up, 2 down damp Victorian cottage, with no running water, no electricity until the late 1930's, outside toilet and no bathroom to a house with all mod cons and a huge garden.

The Walker's managed to get one of the houses and were the first residents of 6 King's Lane. Roger didn't get to enjoy the luxury as before they moved in he was called up for his national service.

Horace and Ada lived the rest of their lives at 6 King's Lane. Ada died in 1979 and Horace in 1984. Roger married and moved away as did his brother, Philip. Their older brother, Geoffrey emigrated to Australia.

Steve

Hungarton Village Hall Quiz



James Patterson organised a quiz in November to raise funds for Hungarton Village Hall. About a dozen teams competed and guess what? The team from Keyham won. The winning team comprised Peter, John S, Margaret, John H and their friends Andy and Mags from Knighton. Nice one!

A "Raffling" Happy New Year!!!



Thanks to everyone who purchased the New Year's Eve raffle tickets - and the kind donors who provided the prizes.

With your kind support we raised £245 for the church tower repairs.

Well done Keyham residents and friends of Keyham!

18 bottle prizes are out for distribution!

Happy New Year

Eden

Keyham Church Flower Group

Many thanks to all who ensured our lovely church was decorated with flowers and greenery for services and special festivals throughout 2024, culminating in this year's amazing Christmas decorations.

Thank you Christine, Claire, Fiona, Jenni, Jude, Margaret, Maureen, Ros, Sandra, Sarah, Sheila, Susan and Vicky!

If anyone would like to join the group, or find out more, please contact **Susan @ Mayfield Farm**



Letter from America



Hi John and Margaret,

Hope you are both doing well. I still read the Keyham News each month and enjoy keeping up with what is happening. You do a great job in producing it each month!

I still remember going to the pensioner's lunch and the village lunch. I did enjoy them.

I would have loved to see the Carol Service at Keyham. I do have such good memories of all the services I attended. Sue's plays were great - took a lot of work. She also included adults in some of them. My contribution one year was sewing an angel costume for one of the children! I still remember once when the men who were wise men were asked a question by Steve Aylott (the News Correspondent). He asked them - what did they bring the baby - they went off script and answered - diapers, and mint sauce. It was a lot of fun and a true village event! Then, after the service, we would go to someone's house (Hugh and Elizabeth?) for mince pies and mulled wine!

I also remember going caroling around the village (I didn't help much - can't carry a tune in a bucket!). Rowels and Muriel Harrison at the Old School House would invite everyone in for drinks and mince pies. The caroling would raise money for some charity - I think the children decided which charity.

Once, when we were at the pub, there was a police group in the side room singing carols and they had musicians playing. They then ventured out into the open area and people joined in singing some carols.

I remember too, the Keyham Village Christmas Party and the Pensioner's Party. They were more events to bring the village together.

Then there were the LOROS walks. There were a couple of times where I came back and you could barely tell the colour of my boots there was so much mud on them! It was a good way to walk off some of the good food we had at Christmas and also raise money for LOROS.

Well, thinking about the Carol Service has brought back a lot of great memories of my Christmases in Keyham.

I hope you have a Merry (Happy) Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Barbara

(Barbara lives in the USA and often visited relatives Sue and John Letts when they lived in Snows Lane. Usually at Christmas time but at other times too. I remember her helping at Open Gardens on at least one occasion. Ed)