



FEBRUARY 2021

THE FORERUNNER

Digital publication for the Parish of Newington Bagpath with Kingscote

**WELCOME to
the February
edition of
The Forerunner.**

WELCOME

We may be back in stringent lockdown, but we can also appreciate how lucky we are to live in a place where door-to-door walks are many and varied. In our Community Corner we feature one walk and there is a request for you to send in your favourite walks, or maybe a new route you have discovered. Also included are some extracts from a story about James Dew, who lived in Bagpath in the early 19th Century. The extracts paint an interesting picture of the communities of Bagpath and Kingscote at that time. The Parish Council news item includes an update on the fibre broadband for the parish.

All copy for the next edition should be [sent to Elin Tattersall](#) by the 20th of the month (01453 860182).

[Sign up here](#) to get your name onto the [mailing list](#) for the parish website e-alerts

The Forerunner Editing Team

([Elin Tattersall](#), [Pauline McTear](#) & [Alice Cooper](#))

VICAR'S LETTER

On the last Sunday in January, the church celebrated Candlemas, the time when Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to be presented in the temple, as was the Jewish custom when a baby was 40 days old. Candlemas marks the end of the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany with the birth of Jesus and then the visit of wise men, the church season then returns to a period known as Ordinary time. Ordinary time seems a strange word in the world we are living in today, in times that are far from any kind of ordinary.

Church services, bible study and meetings in the benefice have moved back on-line, as we do our best to keep each other safe.

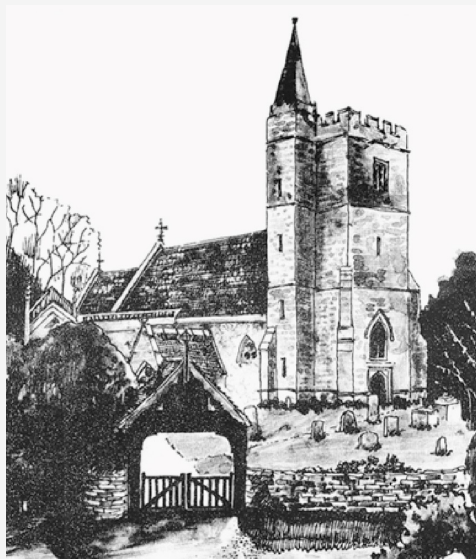
Vaccinations are rolling out and people are looking forward to a time when we are free from worrying about being ill and the rising loss of life; how we long for times to be ordinary.

Those important life events, such as weddings, baptisms and funerals continue to depend on government restrictions. At this time weddings are not permitted and funerals, taken by myself or one of the clergy team, have of course continued to take place with limited numbers throughout the whole of the Pandemic, whether in church, at the graveside or at the crematorium chapel. These are extraordinary times and we long to get back to some kind of ordinary time.

From the ordinary time in the church calendar, we move to Lent, which begins on Wednesday 17th February, with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of reflection on our lives, on the way we live, and our spiritual connection with God. The pandemic has given Lent even more meaning as I suspect we have all in some way re-evaluated our lives.

We don't know what church will look like as we reach Easter, but whatever happens, the church will still be very much continuing with meeting in person, on-line, or a combination of these. The church is of course always here support you in any way we can, or simply to share a conversation.

With blessings
[Rev'd Caroline](#)



KEY DATES

CHURCH SERVICES

Weekly Sunday Services will be on-line until government guidelines are updated. The usual start time is 11am but please check on the [Nailsworth Benefice website](#) for updated information and the weekly on-line service link. (The decision to move to only on-line services was taken by the benefice in January as Covid cases continued to rise).

The church of St John the Baptist in Kingscote will be open for private prayer and contemplation, from 9am to 4pm each Sunday.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to Carol Hatherell for the church flowers in January.

We will re-start the flower rota when church services resume.



KERBSIDE WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Waste collection calendar

Food Waste

Every Thursday in February

Recycling & Garden Waste

Thursday 4th February

Thursday 18th February

RECYCLING CENTRE

Pyke Quarry (Horsley tip) is open from 10am to 4pm on all days except Wednesdays, but only for pre-booked appointments. [Book your visit here.](#)

POST OFFICE

The mobile Post Office will be at Kingscote Village Hall every Monday and Thursday from 9am to 10am.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Although there were no current applications with February consultation deadlines at time of going to press, more applications may be made, for comment during February.

Please check the [Cotswold District Council website](#).



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Fibre Broadband

Managers from Gigaclear updated the Parish Council on 18 January about plans for installation of fibre broadband in the parish. The initial phase, between the Matara Centre and the postbox, is scheduled for 8 February to 9 March. There are plans for road closures in Kingscote village between 8 February and 5 April. Full details of the planned road closures and diversions are being published on the parish website. Connection pots in the village are expected to go live during May 2021 and all the parish is expected to go live by December 2021.

Highways issues

The Parish Council has been liaising with Gloucestershire Highways for some time about improvement of the drainage near Hunter's Hall, and clearing the ditch is planned for 3 February. Traffic management will be in place on the A4135 near the junction with the road to Bagpath. Jetting of this drain will be carried out and jetting of blocked drains in the Hazlecote Valley has also been agreed to be done in due course.

Parish Council Vacancy

A vacancy on the council has arisen due to the resignation of Jonathan Bowers. The Parish Council must wait until 5 February to see if any electors have called an election. If we are advised that there will be no election (which is normally the case), we will then advertise the vacancy and ask for parishioners to apply. The vacancy would then be filled by co-option.

Kingscote Parish Council

COMMUNITY CORNER

We welcome your contributions to this, our parish newsletter, in whatever format - photographs, puzzles, recipes, poems and stories and will try to publish a selection each month. Please send them to Elin Tattersall (01453 860182).

Door-to-door walks

Few parishes can be as fortunate as ours to have such a wealth of walks and the beauty of several stunning valleys on our doorstep, including those in Hazelcote, Binley, Lasborough, Bagpath and Ozleworth.

You may have discovered new walks in the past year or enjoyed old favourites and we would love to hear about them. Please send them in so that we can share them with others in the parish- short or long, along roads or fields and stiles. Photos would also be great.

We don't expect a detailed account, just an idea of a route that others can look up on OS maps and maybe give the walk a go. (Make sure any routes you send in are on public roads/ paths and rights of way).

We (Tattersalls) tried a new walk, around 10 miles in length, a few weeks ago. It took us past Upper Hazelcote Farm and across towards Chavenage. A footpath on the right (Cranmore Dairy and Cottages) took us towards Beverston to meet the A4135. We turned right and walked along the road to Babdown Cottage where we picked up a footpath to pass the cottage, then Babdown Farm.

The route then went past a rifle range and along tracks to cross the Bowdown (Westonbirt) Road, then across another field to meet and cross the A46. There we picked up a footpath which led to Lasborough Cottages and Lodge Farm, then took a footpath across the top of the Lasborough valley to bring us out at Newington Cottages. It was a short step from there to home, past the church. (OS Map 168).

Apart from parts of the Lasborough stretch it was not muddy and this was a level walk with the added interest of a rifle range we never knew existed. The walk along the top edge of the Lasborough valley was one we had not done before and the views across to Bagpath and beyond were stunning.



Our parish 200 years ago

Thanks to Tim Sage for sending in the published story of The Wandering Dew of Bagpath and Kingscote (about James Dew), which was compiled (in 1933) from notes by the Reverend A.G. Cornwall. If you would like to read the full story, [email Elin Tattersall](mailto:Elin.Tattersall) to ask for a scanned copy.

The Reverend had come to Kingscote and Bagpath in 1827, and 'his great and earnest desire was the spiritual welfare of his flock of which the wolves had made sad havoc.' The Reverend was later appointed as one of Queen Victoria's Chaplains.

The story is about a rough young man who led a wayward life, leaving his home in Wiltshire at 17, without any notice nor explanation to his parents, and walking to neighbouring Gloucestershire. 'James Dew seemed to have no pricks of conscience or compunction in sinning, and he delighted in leading others astray. His name was a byword for all that was bad, and his language appalling.'

These extracts give a feel for his character and a glimpse at life in Bagpath and Kingscote.

'But despite his unkempt appearance James Dew was a sharp boy, with a gift of leadership, quick and intelligent. Next day he met some masons from whom he begged bread and work.

'They decided to befriend him, and at their invitation he settled in the village of Bagpath, near Kingscote, Gloucestershire, where he found congenial company, for in those days Bagpath bore none too good a character.

Time went on and James used to indulge in his favourite pastime of cockfighting and other brutal sports, in which he was always to the fore. There was seldom a drunken brawl or wicked revel in which he had no share, and he was generally the leader, guiding others on to mischief and ruin, and at least one of his companions ended his days on the gallows at Gloucester.

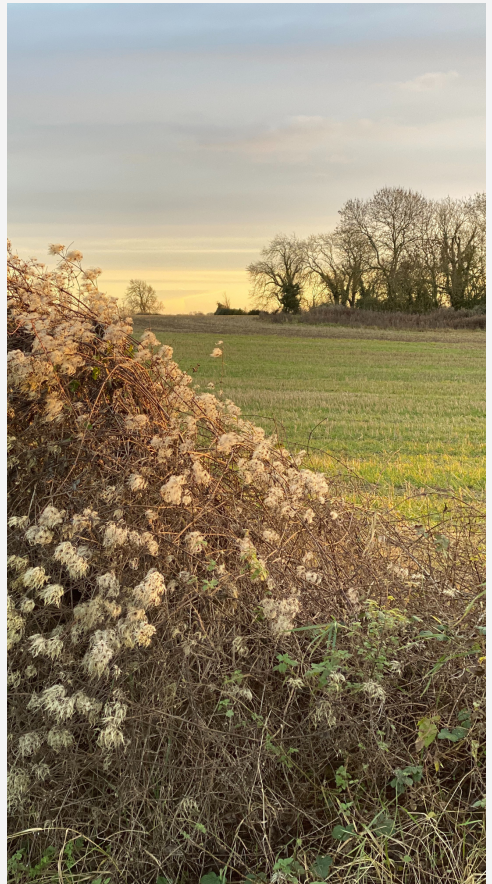
'There were at least two centres of prayer in this and in the adjoining parish of Kingscote, the Rectory and Kingscote Park, for the lady through whom the Rev A.G.Cornwall was appointed to the living, was fully aware of the terrible condition of things in the neighbourhood, and that both parishes were in a deplorable condition.'

A local (Wotton under Edge Deacon - Rowland Hill) had said of visits to Bagpath by Evangelists from Bristol that, 'Bagpath was the only place in the neighbourhood where they were refused a hearing. Showers of stones, mud, brickbats and rotten eggs, or any other missile, were hurled at them.'

Gradually, under of Rev Cornwall's earnest work, the tone of the place changed, even though Dew could not be reached. This was until a severe illness struck him down. The Reverend Cornwall was not around, so the Squire of Kingscote paid James a visit. This was the same young Squire who had also 'lived a careless godless life, and often had James come under the lash of the Squire's tongue, for he had looked after the Kingscote Park game reserves.'

James saw with amazement the change in the young Squire and felt that 'if reading the Bible changed the Squire, then it can change me.' He set forth to repent his past sins and, having partially recovered from his ailments, he 'wrote to his family circle at his old home. He became a regular member of Bagpath Church and a constant communicant, and when he heard of an absent brother excusing himself from attending Church because he had no shoes, he sent him a pair, and this he could ill afford to do.'

James Dew died in 1837 aged around 50 years.



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The Forerunner is published by an editing team of volunteers from the parish and we welcome copy from parishioners, however opinions and views expressed by other contributors are not necessarily those of the editors.
