

*The Church at the heart of the villages, with Christ at the heart of the Church*



**Kelvedon**  
**United Reformed Church**  
89 High Street  
Kelvedon CO5 9AE  
**Notices and News for**  
**February 2025**



**Ron Snowling** Our dear friend will be laid to rest on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 2:00pm** in our Church, followed by cremation at Colchester Crematorium. The service will be presided over by Natasha from the Parish Church.

**Christine Saffell** Our dear friend sadly passed away peacefully on Christmas Eve aged 84 following a struggle with Vascular Dementia. The funeral will take place on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 11:30am** with the burial to follow at St. Martins Cemetery, Feering, where she will be united with her husband Bill at last.

**Church AGM Annual Reports – 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2025**

Please submit your Annual Reports for the AGM to **Janet Davies** by **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025** please.

**Revd Joshua Norris – Sabbatical:** Please remember that Revd Joshua Norris will be on Sabbatical during February, March and April. Please contact one of the Church Elders during his absence.

**Regular Weekly Events:**

**Mondays: House Group** The House Group meet every Monday from 10:30 to 12:00 in the rooms at the back of the Church for a time of Bible Study followed by prayers/prayer requests.

**Tuesdays: - 9.15 - Lunchtime:** Weekly maintenance at the Church. If you can lend a hand, please do just come along, there are plenty of jobs that need doing in and around the halls & sanctuary. For more information, please contact Trevor Andrews.

**Tuesday: Place of Welcome: 10:00am to 12:00:** Place Of Welcome will continue every Tuesday throughout the the Autumn and Winter. Please come along for a friendly chat a cuppa and a biscuit in a warm friendly place. Please contact Lea Finch 07914 238456 for more details.

**Tuesday: Warm Welcome Space: 12:00 – 2:00pm:** Our Warm Welcome Space is back again every Tuesday of the month. We are offering Soup, a Roll and Pudding from 12:00 noon. Please contact Lea Finch to book your place. Everyone is welcome to come and join us.

**Tuesday: Stretch & Glow: 2:30-3:15pm:** Chair based exercise class. Contact Andrea Wash.

**Thursday: - Little Lambs:** Little Lambs meet every **Thursday during School term time 10:30 - 12:00** in the church, contact Lynn Hyde 07896 190288.

**Future Events**

**Place of Welcome and Warm Welcome Space - Tuesdays**

4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> Mar, 11<sup>th</sup> Mar, 18<sup>th</sup> Mar, 25<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Other Event Dates**

12<sup>th</sup> Feb-Elders Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> Feb-St. Valentines Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb-Church AGM after Morning Service, 1<sup>st</sup> March-St. David's Day, 4<sup>th</sup> March – Shrove Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, 17<sup>th</sup> March- St Patricks Day, 30<sup>th</sup> March-Mothering Sunday and British Summer Time starts, 13<sup>th</sup> April-Palm Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April- Good Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April-Easter Sunday.

**Elders & Church Meetings**

**Elders Meetings**

**Wednesdays @ 7:30pm**

12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

14<sup>th</sup> May 2025    9<sup>th</sup> July 2025

10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025    12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

**Church Meetings on Sundays after Morning Service**

**unless otherwise advised**

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2025 (AGM)    18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

27<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 @7:30pm

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2025

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**Joint Steering Group Meetings – Mondays 7:30pm**

14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025 @ Kelvedon - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at Halstead - 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 @ Bocking

**Dates and times for Elders and Church Meetings subject to change**

**Any items for inclusion in the Agenda for the Church Meeting to be given/sent to Neil or Jeremy please.**

**Church Services for February & March 2025**

**All Services start at 10:30 am unless otherwise stated**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preachers</b>	<b>Duty Elder</b>	<b>Door Duty</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Piano</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Rev Ray Sams - Communion	Jeremy		Eileen	Neil
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Mike Shelbourne	Ernie	Ruby	Janet D.	Barrie
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Sue King	Neil		George & Gwyn	Neil
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Trevor Andrews	Rose			Neil
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Charles Martin	Janet	Ruby	Eileen	Barrie
9 <sup>th</sup> March-1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Sunday of Lent</b>	Ernie Finch	Ian			Neil
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Penny Bloom	Trevor		Anne & Keith	Barrie
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Jim Hyde	Jim	Lynn	Jim & Lynn	Neil
30 <sup>th</sup> March- <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	Janet Davies	Jeremy			Neil

**Contact Details for Minister, Elders and Safeguarding**

**Minister:** Revd Joshua Norris – [revjpnorris@gmail.com](mailto:revjpnorris@gmail.com) – 07930 128116

**Elders:**

Neil Peacock- [neil@datatrive.co.uk](mailto:neil@datatrive.co.uk) – 01376 572114

Jeremy Greenhalgh – [jeremy.greenhalgh@btinternet.com](mailto:jeremy.greenhalgh@btinternet.com) – 07799 435671

Janet Davies – [janetdavies177@btinternet.com](mailto:janetdavies177@btinternet.com) – 07900 213833

Ernie Finch – [erniebob1@live.co.uk](mailto:erniebob1@live.co.uk) – 07553 944447

Ian Marshall – [ianmarshallkelv@aol.com](mailto:ianmarshallkelv@aol.com) – 01376 570703

**Safeguarding:** Emma Keegan – [safeguarding@kelvedonurc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kelvedonurc.org.uk) – 01376 572715



**Newsletter Smiles**

**In the ‘Old Days’.**

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

Hence the saying, ‘Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water!’

In the old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.

Every day, they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

Hence the rhyme, ‘Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old’. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could ‘bring home the bacon’. They would cut off a little to share with guests, and would all sit around and ‘chew the fat’.

Now, whoever said history was boring?

### **Wedded Bliss**

A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband is not in bed. She puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a hot cup of coffee in front of him. He appears to be in deep thought just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of his coffee. 'What's the matter, dear?' she whispers as she steps into the room, 'Why are you down here at this time of night?' The husband looks up from his coffee, 'It's the 20th Anniversary of the day we met.' She can't believe he has remembered and starts to tear up. The husband continues, 'Do you remember 20 years ago, when we started dating? I was 18 and you were only 16,' he says solemnly. Once again, the wife is touched to tears thinking that her husband is so caring and sensitive... 'Yes, I do' she replies. The husband pauses. The words were not coming easily. 'Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?' 'Yes, I remember' said the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him. The husband continued. 'Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, either you marry my daughter or I will send you to prison for 20 years?' 'I remember that, too' she replied softly. He wiped another tear from his cheek and said... 'I would have gotten out today.'

### **Out of the Mouths of Babes...**

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. 'You're not supposed to talk out loud in church.' 'Why? Who's going to stop me?' Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, 'See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mummy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

### **Do you know the difference?**

No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words – 'Complete' and 'Finished'. In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes. The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.' Here is his astute answer: '*When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!*' He won a trip around the world and a case of 25 year old Scotch!

### **Smiles**

- When you're down by the sea, And an eel bites your knee, That's a Moray.
- I'm friends with 25 letters of the Alphabet, I don't know Y
- I like cooking my family and my pets. Use commas, they save lives.
- Being cremated is my last hope for a smoking hot body.
- The last thing I need is a burial plot.
- Adultery is a sin. You can't have your Kate and Edith too.

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- A police officer called his station on his radio, 'I need back up here. An old lady has shot her husband for stepping on her recently mopped floor.' They reply 'Have you arrested her?'. He replied 'Not yet – the floors still wet!'
- A man on his Harley was riding along a Californian beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said 'Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish. The biker pulled over and said, 'Build a bridge to Hawaii, I can ride over anytime I want.' God replied, 'Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. Look at the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete, asphalt and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind.' The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, 'God, I wish that I, and all men, could understand women. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy.' God replied, 'You want two lanes, or four, on that bridge?'

**Back in the day...**

Two young men received their Call-up papers for the army. One man was wearing a rupture support, and he happened to go into the doctor's room first. The doctor looked at him and said 'how long have you worn the support?' 'Six months doctor' was the reply. The doctor wrote on the medical report 'ME'. 'That means Medically Exempt' said the doctor, 'take this to the orderly sergeant in the corridor and he will arrange your railway warrant to return home. When asked by his friend whether he had been accepted for the army, he just said he had not, because of the rupture support. The friend then asked him to lend him the support, in the hope that it would work for him. The second lad then went in to see the doctor wearing the support. When the doctor saw the recruit wearing the support he asked how long the man had worn it. 'Twelve months, doctor' came the reply. The doctor reached over his desk for the appropriate form and wrote on it 'ME'. The lad asked the doctor if that meant Medically Exempt. The doctor replied 'No, it does not, it means Middle East. If you can wear that thing the wrong way round for twelve months, you are the right man to ride a camel.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of 'holding a wake'.

**If...**

A=1; B=2; C=3; D=4; E=5; F=6; G=7; H=8; I=9; J=10; K=11; L=12; M=13; N=14; O=15; P=16; Q=17; R=18; S=19; T=20; U=21; V=22; W=23; X=24; Y=25; Z=26.

**Then...**

**H+A+R+D+W+O+R+K** = 8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98%

**K+N+O+W+L+E+D+G+E** = 11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96%

**L+O+V+E** = 12+15+22+5 = 54%

**L+U+C+K** = 12+21+3+11 = 47%

None of them makes 100%. Then what makes 100%?

Is it Money? – NO!

**M+O+N+E+Y** = 13+15+14+5+25 = 72%

Leadership? – NO!

**L+E+A+D+E+R+S+H+I+P** = 12+5+1+4+5+18+19+8+9+16 = 97%

Every problem has a solution, only if we perhaps change our... ATTITUDE...

**A+T+T+I+T+U+D+E** = 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100%

It is therefore our ATTITUDE towards life and work that makes our Life 100% successful.