

Rector's Annual Report
Kenn APM 17th March 2019

- Place of beauty where people can walk, walk their dogs, with benches on which to rest with a wonderful view over the valley from the top.
- Public footpath running along the Easter edge of the Churchyard.
- Awarded Runner-up in Devon's Best Churchyard Competition by CPRE in 2018
- Burial ground for Parish (saving Parish Council responsibility – Kenton/Exminster)
- Resting place for family members and ancestors

History & Family historians

- Enquiries about burials in Parish - via email
- Geoff's encyclopedic knowledge of burial plots – best records in Mission Community
- Simon's tours for coach parties

Rites of passage for individuals and families

- To mark milestone events in life
- Baptism, Marriage, Funeral

Prayer

- For the village and its concerns. Every Thursday at Mass you are prayed for.
- Prayer requests on prayer board
- I am happy to receive requests for prayer which I include at my Morning Prayer
- I will pray with people or offer laying on of hands for healing

Community events

- Worshipping Community
- Social events – Church coffee mornings – place to meet
- Bellringers – social group for particular interest

1980s commercial. John Cleese in pub after buying tv licence. *What has the BBC ever given us?* Answers come – drama, comedy, sport, documentaries, radio, music etc..

What has Kenn Church ever ^{given} ~~done~~ for us?

Church building – St Andrew's

- Vision of person or persons in late 13th century and resources to have it built
- Open building. 7 days/week so anyone can come in
- Free entry. How much does it cost to come in here? Zilch! What other building in Kenn can you enter with no pressure and no questions asked?
- Cared for. Because it is open to public it needs to be kept clean and well-maintained so it remains a safe place to come
- Atmosphere. Why do people come in? Often to find peace and sense of calm. Where does that come from?
- Worship. A Building in which God has been worshipped, and which has been prayed in for hundreds of years. Atmosphere has soaked into the walls.
- Jesus Christ. Present in the Holy Sacrament, the bread of the Eucharist which is reserved on the High Altar. Do not underestimate the power of Christ's sacramental presence in this place.

Surrounding this Church there is the Churchyard.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that God in Jesus Christ has freed us from the self-imposed limitations we place on ourselves. We are more than the job we do, more than what people say about us, more than our possessions, we are – whether rich or poor, young or old, male or female, whatever race – we are children of God who loves us, gives us life and wills us to live abundantly and generously.

And it is in proclaiming the Gospel that so often the wheels come off, isn't it? Not just for Kenn Church but for many Anglican Churches. A little while ago, Bishop Robert was reporting on the ways in which his three mission priorities were renewing the lives of Churches across the Diocese. Growing in Prayer, making New Disciples, serving the people of Devon with Joy. But he also noted that it was the in the second of these – making new disciples – that was scoring lower than the other two.

Now the good news is, of course, that we have seen some growth in the past twelve months. There are new faces in the pews who have joined us, and for that we give thanks. It is a reminder that, even here, God is doing stuff.

But it should also encourage us and challenge us. For there are others who don't actually know that that is what we're about. They see the building, the social events, they might come here to be married or have the children Baptised. They might see the Church as an institution that needs supporting. But not as a place of Good News, of meaning in life, of spiritual fulfillment. That is the ultimate thing that Kenn Church is here to give to the people of Kenn Parish. And we should really be aware of that as much as anything else that we do.

- Village events to fund-raise for Church or other good causes
- Big Fund-raisers – Village Fete, Christmas Fayre, Words for Voices et al. And we do it rather well!
- See how much of Haldon Views is written by Church people

Fisherman. Ann C

Kenn C of E School

- Church School – the only one in Kenn Deanery
- Good OFSTED inspection
- Strong Christian ethos – committed to new SIAMS framework
- Two Foundation (Church) Governors – Liz Rycroft & me
- Involvement from Mothers' Union – concern for family life
- Support of Diocesan Board of Education

What would Kenn Parish look like if none of these things existed in their present form? Let's celebrate and be thankful for the contribution that we as a Church do make to the life of Kenn, Kennford and Clapham.

But there's one more thing that Kenn Church does, or should do, for the village. And that is to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *We have a Gospel to proclaim* was what we sang at the end of the service. And that underpins everything else that goes on in his Church and in the name of the Church. It is the reason for our worship and prayer, our community involvement. It is the reason why this building stands here for, without the Christian Gospel, St Andrew's would never have been built in the first place. And without the Gospel, there's no reason for us to be here.

I suggest 3 ways forward.

1. Review our Mission Action Plan. We have one which is for the whole MC, but needs to be more focused. What do Growing in Prayer, making New Disciples and Serving the people of Devon with Joy look like in Kenn in 2019? Acknowledge and celebrate the good things that are already happening. Plan small but bold steps.
2. Keep that MAP on the PCC Agenda and look at it each time we meet. Pray through it, see how we're progressing and what we're learning from our experiences.
3. Look at ourselves. You may not be aware of it, but I would say that God has touched each one of you at some point in your life. To some degree the Gospel of Jesus Christ has become Good News for you, and that may be why you bother with Kenn Church when there are so many other distractions on a Sunday. So pause for a moment and ask yourself: What has God, in Jesus Christ, ever given me? What difference does he make to my life? And when you have an answer to that question, you are moving towards a state when you can share your Good News with others.

(I have my own story which will tell you, but not now because I think we all want to have our lunch!)