

KINGSLAND NEWS DECEMBER 2022



Advent & Christmas Greetings to all our readers!

Dear Parishioners,

Wise men came from the East is a line from the Christmas Story. They followed a star that they had seen at its rising, and in tradition we don't celebrate their arrival at the place of the newly born King that they were seeking until 12 days after Christmas, at the Feast of Epiphany. Hence the 12 days of Christmas that start on Christmas Day. I often think about their journey and one of my favourite books is the story of the 4th Wise Man who is behind the other 3 as he stops to help people on the way, but continues on his journey nevertheless. Our Christmas celebrations this year include a book Follow the Star which you can pick up from the church for a suggested donation of £1. It is an encouragement to all who are on a journey of faith, whether you are racing along through new adventures and exciting times, or whether you are just trying to put one foot in front of the other after a life-long marathon, or somewhere in between.

When the wise men found that the star had stopped, they entered the house and found Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus and they fell down and worshipped (and gave their gifts).

Wherever we find Jesus on our journey it is to be brought before the one who gives life, and healing and hope. Let us open our eyes to seek and to acknowledge what we find on our journey to Christmas and beyond this year. May it be filled with hope.

On the way there are many occasions - come and enjoy company at the Christmas Coffee Morning with Craft Stalls at the Corners on Monday 5th December between 10 and 12 noon. There will be a stall of pre-loved toys amongst the mix. Hope to see you there. For me the celebrations begin at the Carol Service which this year is on the 18th December at 6.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies. (After the world cup final!!) Then the school Christmas Service in Church, and the



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atmospheric Crib Service on Christmas Eve with steel-band accompaniment and a figure for each child to put into one of our 2 crib scenes. Midnight mass brings a special calm and wonder and then on Christmas Day itself we have a mix of locals and visitors in church for our Family Service where you can bring along one of your presents to show or share. All are welcome at any of the occasions and you don't have had to come to church ever before to come along.

For some Christmas is difficult, for those who have lost loved ones in the year and this will be the first time without them, or for those who have found Christmas difficult for any number of reasons over the last years. On Thursday 22nd December at 10am there will be a short service and coffee entitled Blue Christmas for those who want to come to Church but don't want to celebrate Christmas in the usual way. It would be helpful if you could let me know if you would like to come as this is the first time we have put on this kind of service.

On a more personal note – I will be on sabbatical from mid-January until mid-April and looking at Music in Worship at various places from Cathedrals to Large Concert Style Worship with bands and dancing and everything in between. I hope to rekindle my love of music which filled my life until the children came along and in the mix of ministry and life has somewhat faded into the background. Whilst I am off duty here, there will of course be others who will be leading worship and serving the pastoral needs of the parish. Rev Katie Smith, who is our curate will be stepping up to take more of the funerals. Jean and Peter the

churchwardens will be your first port of call to access the help you need. The Bishop and the Archdeacon are both taking services during this time for you, and the ministry team in this benefice will be fully engaged in seeking to promote the Good News of the Kingdom. May you find peace and wonder as you journey to Christmas this year. Every blessing.

Julie

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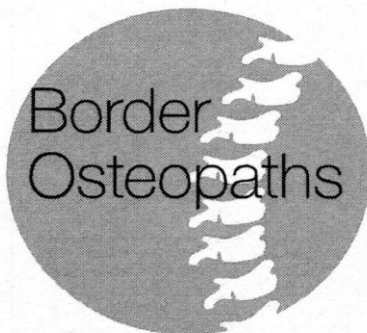
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2nd Jan Foyle
3rd Sue Dawes

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Luctonians Sports Club

Since my last report our first team has had three convincing victories and two losses. Our first home game in October was against Redruth a Cornish club established in 1875 with a long and honorable history. We lost by 22 points to 33. Redruth had no stars but were competent and organized from one to fifteen though the final score slightly flattered them as they ran in two late tries when two yellow cards saw us reduced to thirteen men. We then travelled to Loughborough Students and went down by 27 points to 24 but did pick up two bonus points. We outscored them by four tries to three but Loughborough fly half Tom Smith won them the match with his kicking off the tee with three conversions and two penalties.





Our last game in October was against near neighbours Stourbridge, who, by their standards, are having a disappointing season as they came to us with a lost 7, won 1 record. The score of 36 – 19 in our favour reflected our respective league position and the bonus point win saw us return to the top half of the table.

Our next fixture saw us travel to Exeter University and come away with a 33 points to 3. We dominated them in the forwards and the pack scored all five of our tries with prop Connor Deigan notching two and hooker Ben Link a hat trick. Ben incidentally is the top try scorer in our league with ten, quite an achievement for a hooker. Our final match was against Hornets from Weston super Mare making their first visit to Mortimer Park. They experienced a difficult afternoon not helped by a red card late into the first half and we had a bonus point 40 points to 15 victory.



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Our seconds are still top of Counties 1 with a P10 W10 record and our 3rds in Counties 2 have started to win matches with victories over Newport and Aldridge.

In order to raise funds for their tour to South Africa our U16s did a sponsored bike ride that saw them cover the equivalent of the distance from Lands End to John O Croats. This wasn't on road bikes I hasten to add but on exercise bikes in our gym.

For the first time in many years we now run a Senior Ladies rugby team that plays in the Allianz Warrior Series and has already notched up its first victory. Yet another string to our bow!

Huw Davies.



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Kingsland Bowling Club

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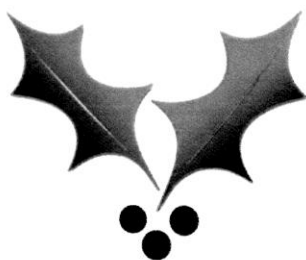
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7th December 2022

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Church Website

Kingsland Church has a new website! Please check it out at kingslandchurch.co.uk. The site has information about services, activities such as the choir and Messy Church, information if you need to contact the church for a wedding, baptism or funeral, as well as some of the history of the church and the Vicar's Blog!

Peter King is webmaster, and I am his novice assistant, and we would be delighted to add to the website if you can't find what you are looking for! Peter's contact details can be found on the website, along with those of the ministry team. It is a work in progress so please be patient with us as we are hopefully improving the site all the time.

Wendy Maddocks

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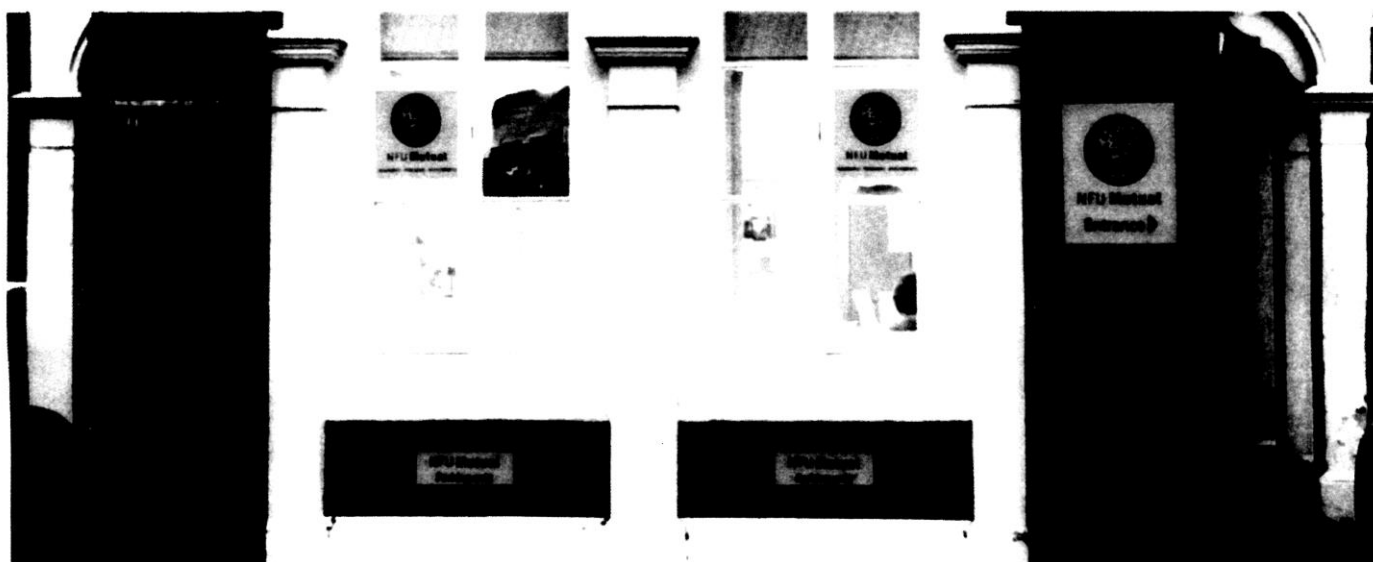
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News from the Chapels

This month's John Wesley: "The great preacher and founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley (1703-1791), was once approached by a man who came to him in the grip of unbelief, "All is dark; my thoughts are lost," the man said to Wesley, "but I hear that you preach to a great number of people every night and morning. Pray, what would you do with them? Whither would you lead them? What religion do you preach? What is it good for?" Wesley gave this answer to those questions:

You ask, what would I do with them? I would make them virtuous and happy, easy in themselves, and useful to others. Whither would I lead them? To heaven, to God the judge, the lover of all, and to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant. What religion do I preach? The religion of love. The law of kindness brought to light by the gospel. What is this good for? To make all who receive it enjoy God and themselves, to make them like God, lovers of all, contented in their lives, and crying out at their death, in calm assurance, "O grave where is thy victory! Thanks be to God, who giveth me victory, through my Lord Jesus Christ."

The closing date for the **Christmas Card competition** is Thursday 8th December at the chapel. a grand **Exhibition** in the chapel on **Saturday, 10th December**. Packs with card and instructions are still available at Methodist Chapel porch and the Parish Church when they are open or B&Q in Leominster. The card can be in any medium- paint, crayon, pen, collage etc, or even photographic or 3D! All age groups are welcome to take part. Children will be in three classes according to age (Adults will be adults!) and there will be plenty of prizes and certificates. The **Prizegiving** will be on **Saturday, 10th December**.

Advent Study Group: "They Sang" There will be an Advent Study Group starting on Thursday, 1st December for four weeks. We will meet from 2-3pm and will be looking at the four songs in the gospels linked with the Nativity. **Everyone is welcome.**

Regular activities in the Chapel

Monday evenings & Tuesday mornings:

Yoga

Tuesday evening: Kingsland Knitters

Wednesday Morning: Village Art Clubs

Wednesday Afternoon: Writers' Group (fortnightly)

Wednesday Evening: Bridge

Thursday Morning: Craft Group

Services for December:

4 th December	Kingsland	Rev Roy Crew	Holy Communion
11 th December	Leintwardine	Sharon O'Connell	
18 th November	Shobdon	Sharon O'Connell	

CAROL SERVICE will be on Saturday 17th December at 3.00 pm at Leintwardine Methodist Church. All other services are at 10.30

Please contact me on 708992 if you need a lift to services or anything else.

Lesley Pitchford



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- Homeade port & cranberry sauce - 500ml:£7.50

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Nature Notes

Finally the Autumn rains arrived to refill our rivers and aquifers, which is good news for our returning Atlantic Salmon, heading for the spawning beds in the upper tributaries of our rivers. They will not spawn, however until the water temperatures drop, as it has remained remarkably warm during November. (Almost shirt sleeve weather!) Our grass has been growing like mad and our farmers have enjoyed a good head of aftermath grazing to help shorten the winter for their sheep and cattle. The potato and maize harvests are all complete and safely in the barns.

The jet stream positioning this autumn and the effect of drawing warm air up from the Azores, has largely been responsible to bring this warm spell about,- at least it's saved a bit on the winter fuel stocks and led to a superb set of autumn colours on our trees and shrubs.

The availability of winter food has seen large flocks of wood pigeon, now coming in from Europe (No border controls for them!) but great concern continues with the ongoing spread of avian bird flu. It is rumoured that some 58 million fowl and other domestic birds in the UK have had to be destroyed. The prospect of getting a reasonably cheap Turkey this Christmas, is unlikely, with many flocks wiped out, resulting in a major impact on the affected farmers' livelihoods and incomes. Large numbers of our sea birds have also sadly succumbed including black headed gulls, gannets, and guillemots. Currently all domestic fowls by law must be kept indoors. The effect has been to create a shortage of eggs, as well as poultry meat.

The plants we bring home to decorate our homes at Christmas are mostly of pagan midwinter feasts rather than having

Christian origins. The Celtic Druids, for example, celebrated with mistletoe, believing it represented longevity, as it thrived and produced its sticky seeds in winter. Being a parasitic plant it is seen up in our apple orchards but it has no roots of its own. I gather it is also now being considered as an aid to some types of cancer treatment. The Druids also considered ivy represented peace, possibly due to its ability to bind and entwine around different trees and plants. It is also much used in weddings to symbolizing fidelity. Holly also has lovely red berries in winter and represents immortality though you have to be quick to get some if the birds decide to feast on the berries! The harvesting, bringing into our homes and decorating of Christmas trees is really only a more recent idea, brought in by the Victorians.

The Northern hemisphere winter solstice, will as ever be on 21st December and marks the shortest day and longest night. Then we can then look forward to lighter days, as winter eventually moves to spring. Hopefully we shall get some winter, with bright days, some hard frosts to kill off the bugs, and maybe a dressing of snow, though with many recent snowless winters recently who knows?

My best wishes to everyone for a joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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SPECIAL SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS

Sunday 18th December

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
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Christmas Readings.

(This year at 6.30 pm after the World Cup Final)

Saturday 24th December

Crib Service at 4.00 pm

A Service for you and your children on Christmas Eve. Set up the characters in the stable and sing traditional music

Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm

**The First Service of Communion as
Christmas Day begins.**

Sunday 24th December

Family Service at 10.30 am

(A said communion for those wishing to take part will follow this service)

Church Services in the Benefice for December

Sunday 4th December		Advent 2
9.30 am	Messy Church (Christingle)	Kingsland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
1100 am	Holy Communion	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
Sunday 11th December		Advent 3
9.30 am	I Sing Pop Service	Eardisland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
3.30 pm	Christingle Service	Aymestrey
Sunday 18th December		Advent 4
8.00am	Holy Communion	Kingsland
5.30 pm	Carol Service	Eardisland
6.30 pm	Carol Service	Aymestrey
6.30 pm	Carol Service	Kingsland
Thursday 22nd December		
10.00 am	Blue Christmas (see Julie's Letter)	Kingsland
Friday 24th December		Christmas Eve
4.00 pm	Crib Service	Kingsland
10.00 pm	Midnight Mass	Eardisland
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Kingsland
Saturday 25th December		Christmas Day
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Leinthall Earls
9.30 am	Family Communion	Eardisland
10.30 am	Family Service (Said Communion afterwards)	Kingsland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Aymestrey

Messy Church

December's Messy Church will be a Christingle Service. This tradition is inspired by the Children's Society, who work with disadvantaged children in the UK, especially those living in poverty or suffering abuse. Do come and join us to make Christingles alongside all the usual Messy activities. Christingles are made out of an orange, a candle, some sweets and fruit and, when the candles are all lit, they symbolise the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness. We will, as always, end with breakfast of sausages, cocoa pops, tea, coffee and more!

November's Messy Church told the story of the jailer who had Paul and Silas, missionaries in Greece, locked up in jail when an earthquake struck. He was stunned when, instead of running away, he found his prisoners singing and praising God. He became a Christian and all his family were baptised. Lots of children and their families made keyrings, chains and Lego prisons! We made our own mini exploding bars and after we had picked up all the sticks, we sang, prayed and read the Bible story and thought about our own baptism.

Do join us, 9.30am, Sunday 4th December in Kingsland Church for Christingle messiness! It helps us to cater if you can let us know if you are coming, especially for any food preferences or intolerances, rev.julie@hotmail.com.

Please note, although we always meet on the first Sunday of the month, there will be no Messy Church on Sunday 1st January.

Wendy Maddocks

The Parish Diary, 2022

*(Editor's note: Events for this item need to be submitted by 15th of preceding month with clear instructions on the entry – **place, time, date & title** are essential information. Where more than one month's notice is given, items will automatically be repeated unless contrary instructions are received.)*

December

2 nd	RBL Annual Dinner	Corners Inn	6.30 for 7.00 pm
5 th	Coffee Morning for Church	Corners Inn	10.00 am – 12.00 noon
7 th	Kingsland Bowling Club Bingo	KBC	7.30 pm
14 th	RBL Lunch for Widows and Widowers	Corners Inn	12.00 for 12.30 pm
18 th	Church Carol Service	Note time change!	6.30 pm
22 nd	Blue Christmas (see Julie's Letter)	Church	10.00 am
24 th	Crib Service	Church	4.00 pm
24 th	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	Church	11.30 pm

2023

January

Note: No RBL meeting in January

16 th	Flower Show AGM	Village Shop & Tea Room	7.00pm
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February

6 th RBL	Talk: By Phil Batty	Corners Inn	7.30 pm
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March

6 th RBL	Talk by Fran Kilby. The History of Military Bands	Corners Inn	7.30 pm
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April

3 rd	RBL Quiz	Corners inn	7.30 pm
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Chris and Caroline Southgate
wish all their friends and acquaintances
A joyous and peaceful Christmas and
a happy and healthy New Year





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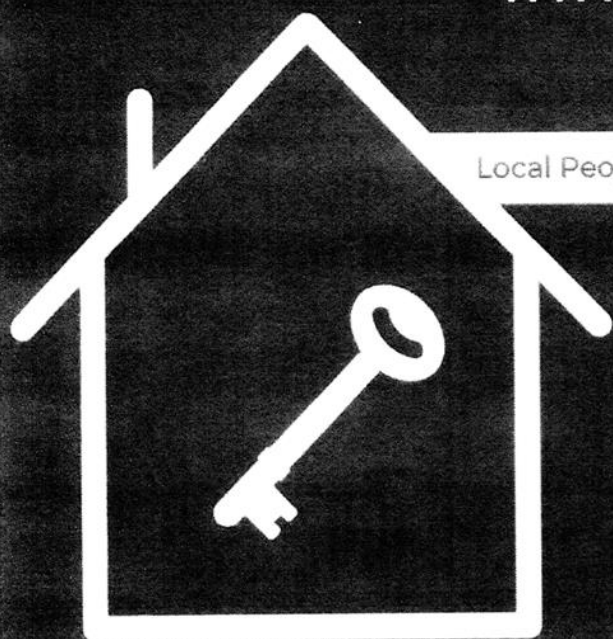
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Patients' Participation Group

Latest News at The MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE

The Latest Position on Flu and Covid

- There's been a tremendous response to the Practice's flu and Covid clinics this year. All available appointments have been booked and more are being planned. The phones have been extremely busy with inward and outward calls and the Practice is grateful for the tolerance patients have shown.
- Anyone over 50 years of age, clinically at risk, carer, healthcare worker, pregnant or in a vulnerable household at risk still waiting/wanting to have a flu or Covid vaccination should call the surgery to make an appointment.
- Children aged 12-18 who are clinically vulnerable should have received a letter offering the opportunity to book an appointment. If not, they are advised to contact the Surgery to book one.
- Nurses are visiting the housebound and are progressing through their list, one area at a time, as speedily as possible.

Impending Nursing Union's Strikes

Not all nurses are members of a Union and patients may be pleased to learn that the Practice does not envisage any direct adverse effects caused by the Strikes in support of pay demands.

An Opportunity to influence the development of Health and Wellbeing in Herefordshire

If you would like to respond to the questionnaire on the website shown below you can let Herefordshire Health know what you think our local health authority should focus on in future. The questionnaire will be live from 31 October to 11 December.

'Health and wellbeing in Herefordshire-what does this mean to you? - Herefordshire Consultations'

If you have any items you wish raised or questions answered at any time, we shall be pleased to hear from you.

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The Old Bard.....By Rick

'If Music be the Food of Love, play on'
(Shakespeare...Twelfth Night)

The interplay of those three words, Music, Love and Food, resonate through my mind as being key to my lifestyle for many years.

Music has always been an essential part of my life – and, fortunately, I can listen to great music and singing on television, or on-line and remember the glorious times I had singing in past years. When my family are with me, we indulge ourselves by singing, playing and remembering the 'Good old days. ' when we were all in choirs, choral societies - and the like, acting, and enjoying the togetherness with our friends and fellow performers!

As to **Love**, I have been blessed with it as a child, during the 50 years of marriage and, even now, in these later years... it brings with it happiness and security!

However, Shakespeare's mentioning of **Food** brings mixed feelings at this time. Having experienced the upturn in prices at the local supermarkets, it looks as though we will have to adjust our food and drink intake to suit our pockets. Even cooking it will add to our use of energy, the prices of which seem to have doubled, overnight.... It costs a fortune just to keep warm!

In the down-turn in financial matters, especially the increase in borrowing costs, it is the younger residents who will feel 'the pinch', with mortgage increases, the higher prices of fuel, travelling costs and pretty well everything else. But don't forget those older folks on pensions and fixed incomes. They will be hoping for generous increases

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in pensions in the New Year.

However, let us trust that Kingsland continues to be a village where community and togetherness reigns, so that through the many church and social groups, we can continue to offer support to the impoverished, the old and less able, wherever possible.

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Kingsland Royal British Legion Branch

The November meeting was the Annual General Meeting and all Branch Officers and Committee Members were reinstated for another year but Mrs. Fear gave notice that this would be her last year as Treasurer. If anyone is willing to offer to be either Treasurer or Secretary please have a word with myself or Richard Collishaw. We are very pleased that Wg Cdr G. Browne has agreed to be the Branch President.

Thank you to all who supported the Poppy Appeal and attended the Remembrance Service at Kingsland Church.

December starts with a dinner, which will take place at the Corners Inn on Friday 2nd December 2022. The cost for the meal is £30 which includes 3 courses, a glass of wine with dinner and tea or coffee to finish. If anyone would like to join us, please contact Richard Collishaw on 01568 708505 for more details.

Wednesday 14th December is the Widow and Widowers Lunch and we are very grateful to have been offered a generous donation towards this event.

The talk which had been arranged for January will now take place on Monday 5th April 2023. There will be no meeting in January, the next branch meeting will be in February 2023, more details in the next newsletter.

On behalf of Kingsland RBL have an enjoyable festive season,

Val Davis (Secretary, 01568 708681)



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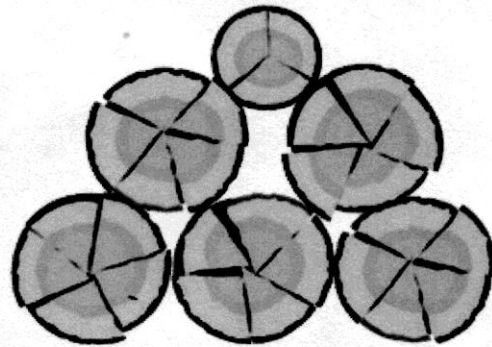
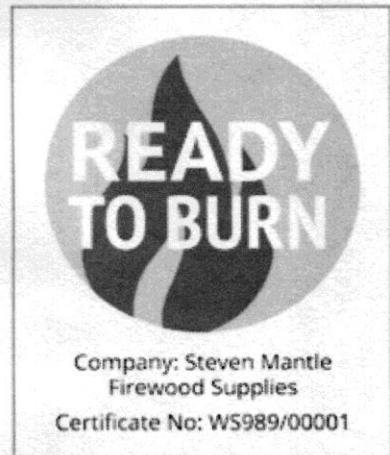
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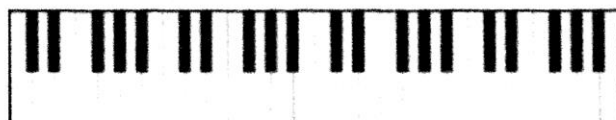
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