



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

- 1 Feb 10.30 Mrs Rekha Cheriyan
- 8 Feb 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family/Parade Service
- 15 Feb 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
2nd Vision Day (*Please bring your own lunch*)
- 22 Feb 10.30 Mrs Charmaine Dinhan
- 4 Jan 10.30 Rev Peter Catford
- 1 Mar 10.30 Mr David Richards



Circuit Discipleship – Bible Studies at Kingsdown

During January and February there will be a series of four Bible Studies with the theme Learning to be Free: a Rule for Former Slaves". Based on the Ten Commandments, the studies will include reflections on how we welcome those new to the church, and what difference it makes to be a person of the Christian faith. The studies will be led by Rev Dr Jennifer Smith and will take place at Kingsdown with the next evening, Sunday 1 February.

They will then will run weekly until 15th February. Studies will start at 5.00pm and last about 1½ hours.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2015 issue is Friday 21 February 2015

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk



Dear friends

If I had a penny for every time someone has joked "Don't you only work on Sundays?!" I'd be a rich woman. I'm not complaining - it's a fact of life that it's always going to be said partly as a joke but I wonder if it's also partly a question (what do you do the rest of the time?) So joking aside, I thought you might like an idea of the rest of my week and the things I've done over the last couple of months that have excited, frustrated, thrilled or saddened me.

On the positive, exciting side, did you know, for instance, that during December I and a number of others welcomed over 250 children into the church to look at the cribs and hear the Christmas story? It was fantastic and inspiring as well as great fun. During that time we noted that whenever the church was open for a group there were also individuals passing by who came in to enjoy the display.

People dropping in has developed into a theme and a question - whenever I'm at the church during the week, if I'm visible, someone pops in to chat, to enquire about the church, because they need support, advice or prayer... There are as many reasons for coming as there are people. Some come through the website as well. And so the question: should we try to be open more often and more predictably? What do you think?

Also exciting are evenings with the Boys Brigade. The dedication of the whole company and the ways in which members are encouraged and grow fills me with hope and admiration. I do, however, tend to leave with my ears ringing from band practice!

Also positive are the mission initiatives developing across the circuit. The Salaamati Project in Southall has just been open for a trial run and we are now reviewing our progress and looking into how we let people know we are there to help.

The proposal for a schools worker for Southall comes to the next circuit meeting and is a partnership with a local Anglican Church. Circuit work involves working through the Faith and Worship course with some very talented Local Preachers in training.

The last couple of months have also included a large number of funerals. As often happens, I have found myself wishing I had known the person better as I heard stories of their lives. Please pray for the families and friends of Margaret Hennessy, Ronald Hewson, Doji Lawson and Nevil Carrington as they mourn.

If I were to add the things I find frustrating or saddening, they'd probably include paperwork, particularly to do with property or legal issues. On the list would also be the fact that I'm often late in doing things because of the unexpected arising (as Pam and Alan will no doubt tell you with the magazine articles!). I have been frustrated and felt I have let current office holders down when I haven't managed to find someone to take their place.

Then there are the little momentary things: the chance encounters in the street or on the bus which I hope bless the other person as much as me; the moments with the news when my breath is taken away by a story or when someone from one of the churches or elsewhere pops into my mind and I'm compelled to pray; the times when a conversation makes me aware of the strength of someone else's witness, faith or ministry.

In some ways many things feel too small to mention but in another it is the tiny things, the decisions we barely notice, the things we do without thinking which make up our life of faith. Eugene Peterson paraphrases the beginning of Romans 12 this way:

'12 1-2 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.'

Our faith and vision are made up of things big and minute, important and seemingly trivial. Each part of our life is an offering to God. So what about you? What do you do on Monday morning and the rest of the week? Where have you seen God's glory? When have you been frustrated or saddened that all is not as God would have it be?

May God bless you in your going and your coming and in all that you do.

Love

Rachel

FAMILY NEWS

Following a fall **Vera Hodges** was unlucky enough to require a partial hip replacement and has asked that we record her thanks and appreciation for all the cards and good wishes received from friends at Kingsdown. We wish you a speedy recovery Vera and hope to see you back with us very soon.

We are glad that **Hazel Pennells'** knee operation successfully took place before Christmas and her recovery already seems well under way.

The last Messenger was published prior to the news of the sudden and unexpected death on Monday, 8 December, of **Doreen Maynard**, wife of the **Rev Eric Maynard**, a previous minister at Kingsdown. The funeral took place at Wessex Vale Crematorium on 22 December 2014, followed by a service at Chandlers Ford Methodist Church the same day. Sincere condolences to Eric and his family from all your Kingsdown friends.

Message from Chris Clarke:

"Geoff completed his life's journey, at home, on New Year's Eve. We ask friends to continue to support us in prayer and to join s in a service of celebration of his life; on January 31st at 12 om, to be followed by lunch, at Rustington Methodist Church, BN16. Please wear a touch of blue, Geoff's favourite colour. Donations to Christian Aid are invited in memory of Geoff and can be made at the service or sent direct to **Chris Clarke.**"

Many at Kingsdown will remember **Geoff Clarke** as a long serving member of the congregation. We send sincere condolences to his widow Chris and to his family.

Thanks to everyone who has kindly remembered to save their cards featuring the nativity for use in the proposed display for next Christmas.

Nevil Henderson Carrington passed away on 4 January 2015, and his funeral took place at Kingsdown on Friday, 23 January. His family would like to convey their thanks for the support given by the Kingsdown family, and particularly by the Rev Peter Catford, and Rev Rachel Bending.

New Member

Rita Safta was welcomed into membership of our church on Sunday 18th January during the annual Covenant service.

Originally from Romania, Rita has been attending Kingsdown regularly since she came to live in Northfields in February 2013. She helps with the Junior Church and Babies & Toddlers as well as volunteering once a week with Splash & Dash, the pre-school group that meets in the church hall.

To mark her membership, Rita was presented with an English language Good News Bible.



Photo: Gerald Barton

Gerald Barton



Vision Day – 18th January

Around 25 people attended the first of two 'Vision Days' intended to discern our church's future path and to prepare us for the forthcoming church 'Away Day' on Saturday 7th March.



Photo: Gerald Barton

Over a light lunch kindly provided by Rev Rachel Bending and Kath Jarrett, we discussed various aspects of church life – learning and caring, service, evangelism and worship. This produced quite a number of worthwhile comments and suggestions.

Some of these were taken away to be developed and expanded for the next 'Vision Day'. Others will be put up in the church for anyone who wants to add their comments. The results of both 'Vision Days' will form the basis of our discussions at the 'Away Day'.

The next 'Vision Day' will be after the morning service on Sunday 15th February. Everyone is encouraged to attend – please bring your own lunch!



The church 'Away Day' will be on **Saturday 7th March** from 9.30am – 4.00pm at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine at Limehouse – a beautiful and very comfortable venue as those who went last year will confirm.

Like last year there will be no charge and we will be organising a coach from the church. There is a form to sign up in the church foyer.

Please put your name down as soon as possible or contact Gerald Barton on 020 8840 7704 or e-mail gerald.barton6039@btinternet.com to reserve your place.

Everyone is encouraged to come to what should prove to be a worthwhile and fruitful day.

Gerald Barton

It was great fun and very interesting to be part of the Vision Day discussion on 18 January; the hall buzzed with ideas and debate. I'd recommend the next opportunity, 15 February, to anyone who cares about Kingsdown church and our future under Rachel's leadership. Come and have your say!

Kathleen Loveridge

Real friendship knows no distance

BOOK FAIR



Books



Bric-a-Brac

**Saturday
14th February**

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

JMA and MWIB

Splash and Dash Global Village Bazaar

Splash & Dash will be holding a fundraising Global Village Bazaar in the church hall on Saturday 7th February from 10.00am – 2.00pm. There will be lots of stalls, crafts, Indian, Chinese (and western) food as well as children's entertainment with Tara from Giggles, Jackie from Makers & Shakers, and Tippy Toes.

Admission is £1.50 adults and children free.

the connexion is a new magazine for Methodists which will be produced three times a year.

In the first edition the editor writes that it is 'designed to keep you, the Methodist people, in touch with what's happening in your church - that is, the world-wide congregation of Methodists.

As well as articles about interesting developments in Edinburgh and Cardiff, there are pieces about the aftermath of the SE Asian tsunami and about the growing Christian church in Korea. News of a project 'to capture the authentic voice of children' and of how Methodists are challenging the benefit sanctions system, are also included.



I have been sent three copies to circulate amongst us. I have placed them in the church foyer. Please take one, read it, and return it quickly so that others may share it, too.

Kathleen Loveridge

You can download a PDF copy of Connexion from:

<http://methodist.org.uk/media/1429317/the-connexion-magazine-issue-1-090115.pdf>

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Notting Hill Methodist Church is organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and is extending an invite to any London Methodists who would like to join the group. Travelling on the 3rd May and returning on 12th May, the group will be visiting important sites in Jordan. The cost is £1,420 per person, which will cover all flights and half-board stay in a 4 star hotel. For further information, or to reserve a place please call Notting Hill Methodist Church reception on 020 7229 7728 or email

reception@nottinghillmethodistchurch.org

KINGSDOWN BABIES & TODDLERS

In December we celebrated Christmas with a party attended by nearly 20 families, and visited by Father Christmas (some of the toddlers even being brave enough to have their photos taken with him). Our minister Rachel also came bringing her musical instruments and singing rhymes with the children. Afterwards, parents and carers visited the church with their charges to look at the nativity displays.

Rita and Evelyn did a marvellous job in the kitchen, keeping everyone provided with refreshments, and extra 'party' food provided for the children, as well as presents organised by Jill Ward.

There is quite a lot of turn over of children with some starting at nursery schools, but there are also a steady flow of new faces appearing quite regularly and all seem to appreciate the opportunity for a chat over a cup of tea, whilst keeping an eye on the children in a safe warm environment.

Sadly we are losing our long term Chairman Jill Ward, who has now been involved for 14 years (and her husband Roy who has been a stalwart in helping to set the toys out each week); they have taken the decision to move nearer to family and friends in the Dorset area and their plans seem to be moving forward very rapidly.

All those involved in helping with the group are pleased that Jill Richardson has kindly agreed to take over the position of Chairman, and hopefully it will continue to be successful in carrying on with this effort at outreach into the community.

Jill Richardson



The power is in your hands

Over 4,500 products from coffee, to flowers to gold are Fairtrade certified, so when you shop, look for the FAIRTRADE Mark.

18 February - Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry. Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you: 'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32) 'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

Prayer for February

Dear Lord,

February can seem such a bleak, mid-winter month, often flavoured with 'flu and bad weather. But actually, the days are lengthening. There are snowdrops and other signs of new life, if we look expectantly. Spring is beckoning. Open our eyes, Lord, to see the wonders of your creation, even in February. May we appreciate the rhythms of the seasons you designed for us, and rejoice in the hope you have given us in Jesus, who came to wonderfully re-create, to make all things new, by his death and resurrection. Thank you Father for life-signs in February - and thank you especially for the new life-sign of Jesus. Amen

By Daphne Kitching



*Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.*

Anon

Pam & Alan would like to thank all Kingsdown friends who kindly sent them cards at Christmas and send their good wishes to all our readers for a very Happy and Healthy 2015.

Marriage license - the only permit taken out after the hunt is over.



SIR WINSTON LEONARD SPENCER - CHURCHILL (1874 - 1965)

Sir Winston Churchill is to be honoured with a “major international celebration” marking the 50th anniversary of his death, with events ranging from a remembrance service to the launch of a ‘warts and all’ website mentioning his hostility to Mahatma Gandhi and his prodigious drinking.

The programme of commemorative events will also include an exhibition at London’s Science Museum, which opened on 23 January, looking at how Churchill backed scientific advances that helped win the Second World War.

On January 30, the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston’s state funeral, there was a remembrance service in the Houses of Parliament, followed by a procession of small boats passing down the Thames, led by Havengore, the vessel that carried Sir Winston’s body down the Thames in 1965.

The Prime Minister writes: “Winston Churchill’s legacy continues to inspire not only the nation he saved, but the entire world. 2015 is a year to give thanks to his service not only to the country he loved, but to humanity as a whole.”



Did you know that Hampton Court Palace, a national treasure, is now 500 years old. Many events will be commemorating this during the year. Well worth a visit.

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Methodist
relief and
development

Ebola: A Methodist response in Sierra Leone - 1



Image: The Lay Vice President of the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (centre right), who has been living in the Ebola quarantined areas, receives bags of rice for distribution in affected communities. © MCSL

All We Can announces new partnership with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone to support and rehabilitate a new target group of Ebola survivors.

As more and more people in West Africa are declared 'Ebola Free', the task of re-integrating survivors into their communities is presenting new challenges. The fear of infection is causing stigma, with some survivors being discriminated against or shunned by their own families.

A co-ordinated Methodist response

In response, All We Can is supporting the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone to establish a new Ebola survivor support centre, based at Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema, Kailahun District.

The eight-month project is expected to reach over 1000 people in the region both face-to-face and indirectly through awareness-raising activities. All We Can has pledged a grant of £75,000 to fund the new project and is working with the World Church Relationships team of the Methodist Church in Britain to manage the partnership.



Methodist
relief and
development

Ebola: A Methodist response in Sierra Leone - 2

Returning home

To support the centre, All We Can is funding psycho-social training for 30 new volunteer community counsellors who will work with Ebola survivors in the communities close to the hospital. These community counsellors will provide practical and emotional support to reduce stress during the transition from treatment centre to home, accompanying Ebola survivors back to their village to ensure they feel properly supported and welcomed home. The counsellors will also meet with the families of survivors before they return home to answer questions and tackle fears to reduce any stigma they may face.

One of the main challenges for survivors on their return is that all of their possessions will have been destroyed or burned to prevent transmission. When they leave the treatment centre, the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone will provide them with a resettlement package containing clothing, shoes, and food items including rice, cooking oil, salt and sugar, fish or meat and vegetables, to help them stay healthy and get back on their feet.

Reducing stigma

The community counsellors will also be providing training in stress and stigmatisation management for traditional chiefs, women groups, youth leaders and others, so they can better support survivors in their own communities. 100 communities will also be educated on the 'rights and privileges' of Ebola survivors and on-going risk factors through radio programmes, jingles and the distribution of banners and leaflets. This includes raising awareness of the risk of sexual transmission of the virus, given that Ebola can still be sexually transmitted up to three months after a survivor has been medically certified as 'Ebola Free'.

All We Can is calling on individuals and Methodist churches to help - go to:

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/current-appeals/ebola-appeal>

Time for closer Anglican-Methodist unity

The CofE is being encouraged to “face head on” the task of closer Anglican–Methodist unity as Synod recently endorsed recommendations made in a report on the covenant between the two Churches.

The report, presented to November’s group of General Synod sessions jointly by the Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth and Peter Howdle, Methodist Co-Chair of the Joint Implementation Commission, made specific recommendations supporting the ongoing work between the two Churches. The Archbishop of York welcomed the call to unity for mission in the subsequent debate, saying: “We need to be more committed to joyous evangelism where the gospel is being preached... Could we resolve it [unity between the Churches] so we can get on with the most important job: the re-evangelisation of England?”

Synod voted overwhelmingly to support the motion and the recommendations of the report.

Real Easter Eggs

Friends may remember that a few years ago Kingsdown supported the Real Easter Egg campaign. For 2015, three different Easter Eggs - all made of Fairtrade chocolate and containing the Easter story told simply.



You can order them direct from the company, but larger branches of Tesco, Morrisons and Waitrose will have them in stock from mid-February. Supplies are always limited and always run out well before Holy Week, so if you want to ensure the perfect Real Easter gift for someone with a sweet tooth, do look out for them soon.

It's a very satisfying way of supporting poor cocoa farmers!

Thanks, Kathleen

Order direct from: <http://shop.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/>

14 Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784): The rose is red, the violet's blue; The honey's sweet, and so are you. Thou are my love and I am thine; I drew thee to my Valentine.

Good fruit



When you finish this story, you will want to eat some fruit. It seems that eating just one or two pieces of fruit a day can cut the risk of a heart attack or stroke by up to 40 per cent.

A recent study by Oxford University has found that people who eat fruit daily have a far lower rate of heart disease, and a lower rate of the two main types of stroke. And the more often people ate fruit, the more the risk fell. Another recent study, at Washington State University, has found that an apple a day can also help keep obesity away, as it makes people feel fuller for longer.



West London Fairtrade Walk

Saturday March 7th

We are planning something new by joining with our fellow Fairtrade groups in Brent, Harrow, Hounslow and Richmond to organise a West London Fairtrade Walk.

Each group is planning a route in their own borough, and at 4.00 pm the Hounslow group is hosting a social event for all walkers at St Michaels and All Angels Church in Turnham Green.

Our provisional plan for Ealing is to start from Hanwell and march through West Ealing, Ealing Broadway and Acton, eventually crossing the border into Hounslow and making our way to Turnham Green. We do not expect everyone to walk the whole way, so there will be joining/dropping out points along the route and of course there are plenty of public transport options.

The aims of the walk are to publicize Fairtrade and promote shops and organizations that support Fairtrade. We will be pointing out shops, cafes, churches, schools and workplaces that are selling, serving and using Fairtrade products.

As well as spreading the word about Fairtrade, we want the march to be fun and are hoping for some eye-catching placards, banners (and outfits?) and some drums and other musical instruments.

The Turnham Green event at 4.00 pm will include stalls, a new film from the Fairtrade Foundation and of course plenty of refreshments, including tea, Divine chocolate and wine.

If you would like to join the walk or have suggestions of any kind to help us plan and publicise it, please reply to our group address:

info@ealingfairtrade.org.uk



Methodist Women in Britain

- bringing women together to know Christ and to make him known
- encouraging, equipping and enabling women to serve God in the church, the community and the world
- connecting women in Britain with women worldwide

Being one, being whole, being God's

**Residential Weekend at
the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU
Friday 17 - Sunday 19 April 2015**

£160

registration Friday 4.00pm - 6.30pm

starts with Friday dinner at 6.45pm and ends at 4.00pm on Sunday

further enquiries admin@mwib.org.uk or 0300 030 9873

All women in sympathy with our aims are welcome at any MWiB event

**I had no shoes and I complained about it, until I met a
man who had no feet.**

'Going to a Service? - don't forget your sandwiches'

Reading in the Notice Sheet about a job vacancy at The Leprosy Mission International (for whom Ruby collects stamps) reminded me of the time in the late seventies when I worked in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea for Save the Children. Working there for the Leprosy Mission was another health visitor also called June.

We both attended the local United Reform/Methodist Church run by Australian missionaries (also attended by local tribesmen in their colourful native costumes - spears and bows and arrows to be left outside!) Amongst the preachers was one who had a reputation for giving extremely long, tedious sermons and inevitably when he was preaching June would say: *'It's James tonight, bring your sandwiches and leave a forwarding address'*

This is a phrase that now always runs through my head when I am going somewhere where the occasion might be long and boring.

Thankfully, this rarely applies to services held at Kingsdown!

June Thompson

Notice on the wall of an American Mission house in PNG:
'The day you stop burning with love, others will die from the cold'

TOP TEN HYMNS FOR PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN AGE

1. *It is well with my Soul (but my back aches a lot)*
2. *Nobody knows the trouble I have seeing*
3. *Amazing Grace (considering my age)*
4. *Just a slower walk with Thee*
5. *Count your many birthdays. Name them one by one.*
6. *Go tell it on the mountain.....and speak up.*
7. *Give me that old timer's religion.*
8. *Blessed Insurance.*
9. *Guide me ,oh thou Great Jehovah (I've forgotten where I parked)*
10. *One more limp along the world I go.*

Submitted by Janet Smith

*A prayer to be said when the world has got you down
And you feel rotten
And you're too doggone tired to pray
And besides you're mad at everyone*

'Help!'

Submitted by June Thompson

Sunday Service - Wesley's Chapel - 28 December 2014

Did anyone else listen to the wonderful Sunday Worship service from Wesley's Chapel on Radio 4 at 8.10am on 28 Dec?

This was led by the inestimable Rev. Leslie Griffiths and included carols in the West Gallery tradition. There were also some items from the William Blake collection of poems called ***Innocence and Experience***. (*Broadcast no longer available on iPlayer - we have a recording if anyone is interested. Ed.*)

Blake is buried in the cemetery across the road from Wesley's Chapel which was less than twenty years old when Blake published these. One of the poems read included London which I had never heard before. This was published in 1794 during the upheavals of the [French Revolution](#), and London was suffering political and [social unrest](#), due to the marked social and working inequalities of the time.(Wikipedia) .

The poem was said to describe Blake's dark fury at the failures of the establishment: Monarchy, Church, military etc. The triumph of commerce which turns into property ('charters') even what ought to have been natural and free (the river, and the concern with victims and the helpless - including children. The first letters of the four lines of verse 3 spell out the prophetic injunction 'HEAR ')

Although much has changed for the better in London since the 220 years when Blake wrote the poem, certainly the marked social inequalities and other concerns remain.

My Favorite Poetry - London

By William Blake 1757–1827

*I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow.
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.
In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear
How the Chimney-sweepers cry
Every blackning Church appalls,
And the hapless Soldiers sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls
But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born Infants tear
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse.*

Submitted by June Thompson



'The best argument for Christianity is Christians - their joy, their certainty, their completeness.

But the best argument against Christianity is also Christians - when they are sombre and joyless, when they are self righteous and smug, when they are narrow and repressive.

Then Christianity dies a thousand deaths"

C S Lewis

extracted from Church News Service

A Child's Description of a Thunderstorm

When you read this, you will never think of Thunderstorms the same way again. This should make you smile!!!

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child.

Full of concern, the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.

At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"

*The child answered,
"I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."*

May God Bless You Today and every day as you face the storms that come your way !!

Submitted by Janet Smith

THE BB MARCHING BAND

After three months' basic training, The Bandmaster has made his final choice of the top-flight novice buglers. The remaining Boys will now move on to new areas of specialism in percussion.

We now have the venue confirmation for the London Band and Drill Competition Day on Saturday 18th April. We're going to Bishop Ramsey School, Hume Way, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8EE which is much nearer than last year's location. As such, we're hoping for a big turnout of supporters on the day!!

Go-ahead for major church credit union

Fair returns to savers, fair interest rates on loans and the aspiration to be a flagship credit union are among the aims of the Churches' Mutual Credit Union Ltd (CMCU) which has recently received formal authorisation from the regulatory authorities. CMCU plans to begin to offer its services from February 2015.

CMCU has been formed for and with the help of the Church of England, the Methodist Church of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church in Wales. It is expected that, in due course, it should become a significant financial resource to the church and individuals throughout England, Wales and Scotland. It is hoped that CMCU will enable "a virtuous re-cycling of money within the church community, through a combined portfolio of savings and loan products."

At first, churches and individuals (notably ordained ministers, licensed lay ministers, elders, employees and trustees of churches and church charities and the charities themselves) will be able to become members and benefit from the financial products.

It is estimated that at least 60,000 individuals plus churches and church charities will be eligible to join CMCU. This will enable savings and provide loans to individuals for essential items and to churches for mission projects and equipment. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme covers deposits up to £85,000.

CMCU plans to offer a range of loan products which will be a major funding stream for the dividend that will be paid on savings products such as ISAs, instant access and regular (monthly) savings accounts. These products will include a competitive car loan scheme.

Once the credit union has built up an established track record, it is intended that CMCU will be open to all church members and extend its denominational base. CMCU aspires to become an example of best practice in the sector and aid the Church's involvement in a critical area of national life for renewal and transformation.

Ealing Animal Welfare BAZAAR

Hanwell Methodist Church

Church Road, London, W7 1DJ

Saturday 7th March 2015
10:30am - 4:00pm

A wide range of participating societies

admission
FREE



Now in its
37th year

www.animalwelfarebazaar.info

The Kingsdown Messenger is now available in PDF format by e-mail each month. If you or someone you know would like to receive a copy electronically then just send an e-mail to:

magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk

With 'Messenger please' in the subject line - you will then be added to the monthly mail out. Your e-mail address will not be used for non magazine purposes or passed on to anyone else.

The current issue of **The Kingsdown Messenger** and some back issues are also available on the Kingsdown website - go to:

<http://kingsdownmethodist.org.uk/church-magazine>



SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

Many people had seen the steam lift the lid of a kettle, but it took a James Watt to see it and go on to think of that power becoming a steam engine. It is all a matter of how we see things. We could see something a thousand times and not make the connection.

Jesus explained why he taught with parables, stories that explain some-thing in simple ways to do with everyday life that people of the time would recognise. He explained that it was because people look without seeing, and listen without understanding (Matthew chapter 13, verses 13-14).

We all do this, and that is why we need other people to help us learn more about what the stories in the Bible mean. People who can explain and help us to see with 'new eyes'.

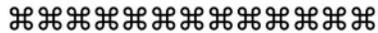


SEEING THE WORDS

All the words hidden in this word-search are things you see with or look at:

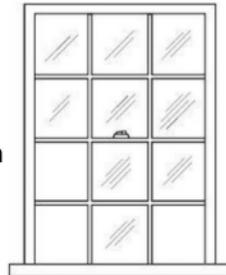
S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E	S
L	E	C	T	E	V	I	D	Y	C
G	E	A	G	L	E	O	P	E	E
S	W	N	A	E	P	B	S	S	N
E	A	K	S	V	I	D	E	O	E
S	T	C	L	I	C	E	L	F	O
S	C	O	O	S	T	G	G	R	W
A	H	L	O	I	U	O	G	E	E
L	C	C	R	S	R	T	O	L	I
G	A	M	E	N	E	U	G	O	V

- * clock * eyes * game * glasses *
- goggles * lens * picture * scene
- * spectacles * television * video *
- view * watch



What gadget do we use to see through a wall?

A window.



Optician: What can you see out of the window?

Patient: Only the sun.

Optician: How far do you want to see, then?

Optician: You need glasses.

Patient: But I'm wearing glasses.

Optician: Then I need glasses.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

FEBRUARY

- Mon 2 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 3 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Entertainment with Lynda Silk
- Wed 4 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
7 pm Youth Group - Upper Foyer
- Thu 5 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 6 10.15 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - Everyone welcome
BOYS BRIGADE 6.30-7.30 pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm
Junior Section, 7.30-10.00 pm Company Section (most
Fridays throughout month)
- Sat 7 10.00 am - 2.00pm Splash & Dash Global Village Bazaar
Admission £1.50 adults, children free.
- Tue 10 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 17 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - 'The Theatre' a talk by
Jonathan Fryer
- Sat 14 10.00 am to 12.30 pm Book Fair with cake and bric-a-brac
stalls. Proceeds for JMA/Mwib. Entry 40p.

The second Vision Day has been fixed for
15 February after Morning Service

MARCH

- Sat 7 'Away Day' at St Katharine's, Our facilitator, Wendy Beard, will be devising another interesting and enjoyable programme for us in collaboration with Rachel. Coach transport to and from the venue, lunch and refreshments are all provided. Please do sign up on the list on the foyer notice board or inform Gerald if you are coming (tel 020 8840 7704 ; email gerald.barton6039@btinternet.com)
- Sat 7 10.30am - 4.00pm Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar, Hanwell Methodist Church. Admission Free