



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



September - October 2022



Creator God,

*We give thanks for the life of Her Most Gracious Majesty,
Queen Elizabeth II.*

*We honour her life of service built on a firm foundation
of faith and an exemplary commitment to duty.*

*Comfort those who mourn and bring peace to those in
distress.*

*We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our
Saviour.*

Photo Credit - Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images.

A SAD BLESSING

*It had to happen sometime; that we realised.
So really we shouldn't have been surprised.
We couldn't take it in as we watched TV,
Anxious for what we were about to see.*

*The Queen was in Balmoral; the home she held dear,
Staying for the Summer, as she did every year.
The doctor's announcement came out of the blue.
There in attendance. Could the implication be true?*

*We'd only just seen her two days earlier,
Standing and looking frail, but still familiar.
Installing the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss,
Hand outstretched, smiling, showing no fuss.*

*The BBC was suddenly alert, filming everywhere.
We watched the family members arriving there.
Eyes fixed on the screen, couldn't move if we tried.
And then we were told that The Queen had died.*

*It's the end of an era...of course we are sad.
But for HRH we must surely feel glad
That the way that it happened was all for the best.
Her duty completed and now She can rest.*

Joyce Hobson September, 2022



Kingsdown Methodist Church



September

18 Sep 10.30 Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion

25 Sep Local Arrangement



October

2 Oct 11.00 United Service at Ealing Green

9 Oct 10.30 Mr Tony Plews, Morning Service

16 Oct 10.30 Local Arrangement, Morning Service



23 Oct 10.30 Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion

30 Oct 10.30 Rev Sue Male, United Service

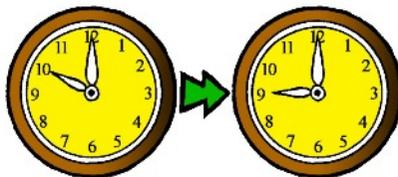
Nov

6 Nov 10.30 Mr Alex Anteyi, Morning Service

13 Nov 10.30 Mr Tony Plews, Morning Service

20 Nov 10.30 Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion

27 Nov 10.30 Rev Sue Male, Morning Service



Clocks Go BACK - 30 Oct 2022

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the Nov - Dec 2022 issue is Friday 23 Oct 2022

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**FRESH NEW START
for KINGSDOWN METHODIST
AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 11.00am – 3.00pm
IN THE CHURCH**

Lunch kindly provided by Liz Palmer!

A Time to be together, to eat together and to step into our church's future together

Dear Kingsdown Friends,

With the threat from Covid-19 much reduced, I want to invite you to come to this special day to spend some time together outside of worship, and to work together to be and to build the church community for God in this place at this time.

The pandemic has left scars on everything, and the church is no exception. We need to act to ensure a healthy and fruitful future for our church. BUT this also provides us with an opportunity to regroup and to refocus:

In this place and time, What are we here for?
How can we be the church that God wants us to be for Him?
How are we going to resource that?

You know that St. Paul taught us of a church that is made up of ALL of its many parts.

All belong
All have a unique part to play
All have a crucial part to play
All – through God's Spirit can grow and learn and develop in His community – from the youngest to the oldest.

All members of the body have a responsibility to be involved. That responsibility leads to joy, fellowship, friendship with God and with others, purpose and fulfilment for all of the members of the church. With one person missing, there is something lost.

How could you not want to be part of that? Let's not see ourselves as a "church which used to be bigger and mourns for that past". Let's see ourselves as the church we are ... small ... devoted to God ... with a mission to fulfil for Him now! You belong here. You obviously value coming.

Please come along on Saturday 8th October at 11.00am to show us that you are committed to ensuring that Kingsdown Methodist Church has a place in your life, and in the life of the community around us in the coming months and years. We'll meet in the church worship space but will move to the hall for lunch.

Please let me know that you are coming by 1st October so that I can give numbers to Liz for lunch and also whether you have any specific dietary requirements. My contacts are below, or alternatively place a slip in the box supplied for it at church.

With my love, prayers and blessings,

Rev'd Sue

susan.d.male@googlemail.com
020 8579 8114
07939 150194



Sue's Letter is missing in this Messenger but will be back in the next issue. Ed



Our prayers and good wishes go out to her as she recovers from a dose of Covid.

Family News

Pam Smith is currently in hospital following a severe stroke. She is on the long path of recovery and both Pam and the family are having to adjust to a new way of living. The Church family have sent many cards or made contact with calls of support. Pam is very appreciative of all the 'fuss' she has created and would like to thank the many people who have been asking after her. I know that many have included Pam in their prayers, thank you all. Alan

A Message from Gwen Goodchild

I wish to thank all those from Kingsdown for the cards and messages of care and sympathy, sent to me since the sad death of Les. Your kind thoughts have been a great comfort to me.

Thank you all. God Bless. Gwen

Petition at Rising

*O holy Father of truth adored,
O kindly Father of mercy poured,
Deliver me from the spells that harm,
Deliver me from each evil charm.*

*Allow no stain to blemish my soul,
Allow no spot to my body whole,
Allow no taint my breath to defile,
Father of tender and lovely smile.*

*For now, and for henceforth unto me
In my life, in my death, do thou be,
O Son and Abba Father of love,
And Holy Spirit of grace above!*

From an ancient Celtic prayer from South Uist

A Day of Sorrow and Blessing

'What a tough time you are all having at Kingsdown, this week,' an Ealing Green friend said, when I told her that two funerals were taking place on 27 July.

And, of course, there is always sadness when losing old friends. Both Vera Hodges and Les Goodchild were long-standing members of the church, and long-standing members of their local communities as well.

A large crowd of family, friends and neighbours gathered at the church in the morning to say goodbye to Les, when tributes were given by his son Mark and grandson Jamie Brown. Later in the afternoon many of the same Kingsdown members joined the small group of elderly relatives gathered at Mortlake Crematorium to celebrate Vera's life.

But at the end of the day, there were so many positive memories of these two lives, that for me the day had become a blessing, as I hope and trust it was for the close family members. As one might expect, a Christian memorial service has special resonance when the gathered congregation are able to join in the hymns and prayers with conviction, knowing that those for whom they are grieving had died in certain hope of a glorious Resurrection. On this particular day we sang 'In heavenly love abiding' (StF 736) at both services; the hymn has special personal significance for me, but we all sang heartily as Les and Vera would have wanted. There was plenty of other good music, too, and I suspect that the Glen Miller choice of Vera would have been appreciated by Les as well.

Tony Plews paid tribute to Les's service to the 10th Ealing Boys Brigade over many years, as well as sharing happy memories of travelling with Les to watch Brentford Football team. And what a surprise? Both the BB and the Bees were part of Vera's story, too. Her financial and prayerful support of BB activities were highlighted in the eulogy given by her Godson, Tony Willis, and he also told the following story that Vera remembered from her childhood. Vera's family lived in a house in Brentford that backed

onto the football ground. One Saturday afternoon, Vera was in the house with the front door open, when a local fan rushed through the front door, out of the back, across the garden, and over the wall - presumably to save buying a ticket!

Vera had few remaining relatives to attend her funeral, but Tony Willis, whom she had wheeled out in a pram when he was a baby and she just a teenager, had been a loving and faithful Godson throughout her life. He and his family had hosted Vera and her late husband Tom at Christmas and other holidays, and now Tony had arranged her funeral and was carrying out her last wishes.

Those of us who had wanted to visit Vera in her nursing home in her last months had been gently but firmly rebuffed; Tony was able to tell us the reason. Tom Hodge had been very proud that his wife always looked at her best when they went out to parties and dancing, and after his death Vera continued to dress smartly and keep her hair its rich auburn colour. Sadly, when she felt unable to maintain these high standards she became unwilling to meet all but those closest to her. A lady determined and very proud, in the nicest possible way.

Jamie Brown had earlier spoken lovingly of his grandfather, who had encouraged his own artistic talents and pursuits. From Jamie we had a picture of Les in his last weeks in hospital – drawing pictures for the staff to put up in their rest room. No doubt there are many Kingsdown members, as well as other friends and family who continue to get joy from one of Les's pictures hanging in their home.

All in all, it was a day full of happy memories, and thankfulness for lives well-lived and richly blessed; for friends now unseen but for ever part of our Kingsdown story.

Rest in Peace:

Vera Ethel Hodges 19th August 1923 – 5th July 2022

Leslie Joseph Goodchild 7th February 1933 – 27th June 2022

Kathleen Loveridge

Les Goodchild



We were so very sad to hear of the passing of Mr Les Goodchild, one of the kindest and most creative staff members ever to serve in 10th Ealing.

He first joined our ranks in the late 1960s when Captain Joe Yates discovered that the dad of a new recruit had some experience of playing a snare drum. Les was quickly signed up as an instructor ("It'll just be for a few weeks, Mr Goodchild!") and thus began his long association with the Boys' Brigade at Kingsdown Methodist Church.

His jolly personality was a perfect fit for The Junior Section, and he threw himself in with gusto for the next quarter-century, attending every week, also supporting Battalion Camps, often accompanied by his wife, Gwen. His natural creativity (painting, drawing, poetry, music, acting, prose) made him the go-to-guy for all BB craft sessions and musical/theatrical productions.

Many will fondly picture him sitting at the piano in the church hall, hammering out a medley of popular tunes while the Junior Boys marched around trying to keep in step. There are literally men serving in the armed forces today who first learned to march to the accompaniment of Les Goodchild playing "Match of the Day" and "The Theme from News at Ten" at a strict 120-to-the-minute tempo. He was persuaded to reprise this for the Company's 50th birthday in 2016, and a squad of middle-aged grey-haired men strode smartly around, tears of joy and nostalgia running down their cheeks.

For many years he earned his living as an artist, and Les Goodchild originals hang in hundreds (thousands?) of homes and businesses all across West London -- two in particular take pride of place at Kingsdown, showing the church before and after its millennial renovation. He also worked behind the scenes in film, and would, when prompted, happily tell engaging tales of life backstage.

He served in countless capacities at his church, often maintaining and improving the property, but also keen to participate in shows and revues, occasionally speaking as a Local Appointment on Sunday mornings, and lending his distinctive deep voice as chief auctioneer for charity events when required.

He is mourned by many, but especially Gwen, their children and grandchildren. A man of love, talent, music, faith, art, creativity and laughter. He rests now with his Creator, and we were blessed who knew him.

Sure and Steadfast.

Tony Plews

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are frequently asked questions
The ones I'd never ask?
Why do cookies make suggestions
Intruding on each task?
Why does ev'ry Tom and Harry
Assume my phone is smart –
That it's something I must carry
An inch beside my heart?

I prefer to store my files
But that is not allowed
They go ten thousand miles
To somewhere called a 'cloud'.
I do not own my software
Whatever my intent
It's somewhere up aloft there,
And I must pay a rent.

The modern world is bumpy
And hard to navigate
It often makes me grumpy
Despairing of my fate;
And frequently – each hour
I ask the question why
Computers have such power
O'er folk like you and I?

By Nigel Beeton

Boy's Brigade Newsletter



I am delighted to report that 10th Ealing Boys' Brigade have been able to camp this summer, for the first time since 2019. We had kept a careful eye on the Covid situation all year, and decided that it would be safe and reasonable to plan a week away under canvas. Our usual camping venues in Swanage and Brecon were not available so we chose an ideal site in Cromer, Norfolk, and packed 35 Campers (children and staff) into two minibuses and various cars and set off on a gloriously sunny Saturday in August.

We were not disappointed upon our arrival, as the field was perfectly positioned with a most wonderful view of the sea, the beach itself being just a five-minute stroll away. Our advance party had already set-up our gear and the lads leapt into their smart white tents and laid out their sleeping bags before receiving the obligatory safety talk and then taking their first of many opportunities to visit the seafront.



To describe all of our adventures would fill the Messenger several times over, so I'll just highlight a few activities: we enjoyed various team tournaments (football, volleyball, beach cricket, chairball, mini-Olympics); took a delightful hour-long walk along the seafront (without a single moan from any of the Boys -- they loved it); the older lads took part in the traditional Night-Hike, and also spent a morning at a 10-pin bowling venue; we twice visited the local swimming pool (and picked up lots of whistles for slightly

mischiefous behaviour); popped into a couple of local towns so the lads could buy souvenirs; we all got soaked during a morning of mad water games; the Boys were taught how to safely use and fire air rifles on our own supervised shooting range; played several quieter games (badminton, table tennis, cards); and also allowed some free time for the campers to simply enjoy being together in the open air with their friends and without their mobile phones.

For many campers though, the best part of each day was the evening in the marquee, with cups of hot chocolate, lots of songs, jokes and games, and then the sounding of Last Post and a short



but moving devotional from a member of staff. Our theme this year was "Homecoming", reflecting our happiness at being able to return to camp, a place which we consider to be our spiritual home.

There is a great deal of work and planning that goes into a BB Summer Camp, but the tears of happiness, the hugs and the handshakes on the last morning as we bid goodbye to our fellow campers makes it all worthwhile. As does the sure knowledge that every attendee had moved one step further along their own spiritual journey.

Tony Plews
Commanding Officer

Reflecting Together on Holy Communion



However much you think you know and understand about Holy Communion and why we celebrate it, there is always more to learn.

Below are nine opportunities to learn more, to study a relevant Bible passage, to share in fellowship and to celebrate Holy Communion in a small group. Each session will stand alone so that people can drop in and out as they wish. Each session, including the celebration of Holy Communion will last 1 ½ hours.

Importantly these are for people from any church not just the one with a noted location.

THEY ARE NOT COVERING THE SAME MATERIAL AS THE TWO SESSIONS FROM THE SUMMER, but are still framed from "Share this Feast".

Session 1 Holy Communion as remembering

Sunday 25 September 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 26 September at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 2 Holy Communion and sacrifice

Sunday 23 October 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 24 October at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 3 Holy Communion and Personal Devotion

Sunday 27 November 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 28 November at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 4 Holy Communion and the presence of Jesus

Sunday 29 January 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 30 January at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 5 Holy Communion and the work of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 26 February 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 27 February at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 6 Holy Communion and anticipation

Sunday 23 April 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 24 April at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 7 Holy Communion, mission and justice

Sunday 21 May 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 22 May at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 8 Holy Communion and invitation to the feast

Sunday 25 June 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 26 June at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 9 Holy Communion across the Christian denominations

Sunday 2nd July 6pm at Kingsdown Or

Monday 3rd July at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

It would help me to know if you intend participating in these
Either regularly or sometimes.

If you need a zoom version in order to participate please be in touch

Sue





All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an urgent appeal to support communities impacted by the devastating flooding in Pakistan.

More than 1300 have died since the monsoon season began back in June, and it is reported that a third of the country is now reported to be underwater. Flood waters have not only devastated critical infrastructure, but also destroyed crops and livelihoods for countless people. Pakistan is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis – already, more than one million homes have been destroyed or damaged, and 33 million people have been affected by the flooding.

Through Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can's joint appeal, your urgent support will reach those most impacted by the flooding. By working with trusted church and humanitarian partners, your donations will make a critical difference. Please give generously today.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

Responding through partners

In times of crisis, we work through local partner organisations, already rooted in communities, or through the Methodist Church. We also work in partnership with other international humanitarian aid NGOs that have long term partnerships with local organisations capable of responding.

“Hugely inadequate”



The response of the international community in responding to the early warning signs of a hunger crisis in East Africa has been branded “hugely inadequate”.

In a recent report, *Ripping off the Band Aid*, Christian Aid warns hunger has “more than doubled in one year.” On World Humanitarian Day 2021, there were 2.1 million people in Kenya facing food insecurity while 4.1 million Kenyans facing the same fate in 2022.

In Ethiopia, people facing food insecurity have dramatically escalated from 5.2 million to 20 million. Across Ethiopia and South Sudan, the UN reports that gaps in funding have forced a cut to rations, incomplete food baskets and a reduction in the number of people helped.

In addition, there has been a catastrophic impact on crops, livestock and pasture, caused by conflict, flooding, desert locust infestations, the lingering effects of Covid on prices and now disrupted supply chains.

Christian Aid warns that the crisis in East Africa has shown the aid system cannot meet the ever-increasing scale of emerging crises. It is calling for a scaling up of locally driven approaches that builds on existing capacity and local knowledge.

Christian Aid said: “To break the cycle of food hunger, it’s time to rip off the band-aid and invest in building resilient communities during and between crises. That demands government backed finance and local knowledge to complement early warning systems and anticipatory action.”



Balding maize crop
East Africa

*A Harvest Prayer for East Africa from
Christian Aid*



*Loving and compassionate God
When famine stalks the land, nothing grows.
Plants cannot, people cannot, ideas and dreams cannot.
Everything withers and dies.
It is a violent aberration of your will for the world
and it is multiplied now by conflict, climate change and Covid.
God of the flourishing field, there is enough to feed us all.
Call us to that sacred sharing neighbour, to global neighbour.
Your gifts of food, water,
a chance to live the life so delicately crafted by your divine spirit.
We will not turn away, but turn towards each other
with generosity and a justice-driven compassion that searches for
solutions
Famine stalks the land, so may our outrage grow,
may our determination steel itself,
may our solidarity spur us into action
God of the flourishing field, help us feed each other. Amen*

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/harvest-appeal>

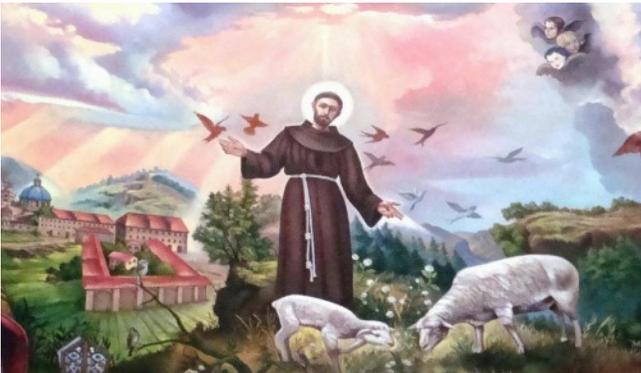


.St Francis of Assisi

There are many versions of the following St Francis of Assisi prayer. This one is an English translation of the earliest known version that was written in French, and it's one that is much needed in our world today

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.*

Amen



*Painting in
Saint_Francis_of_
Assisi_Church_
Coyoacan_
Mexico*

Travelling

I have been in many places but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there.

I have, however been in Sane. They have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible but only when it was important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places is in Suspense. It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart. At my age I need all the stimuli I can get.

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country that was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.

You can do your bit by remembering to send this post to at least one unstable person. My job is done.

Life is too short for drama and petty things.

So, laugh insanely, love truly and forgive quickly.

Joyce Hobson

Freedom of religion is under attack

Are you aware that Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world? One estimate is that 360 million Christians across the world today in 76 countries suffer high or very high levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.

Eight years ago The Times published an editorial entitled 'Spectators at the Carnage'. It began: 'Across the globe, in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, Christians are being bullied, arrested, jailed, expelled, and executed. Christianity is by most calculations the most persecuted religion of modern times. Yet Western politicians until now have been reluctant to speak out in support of Christians in peril'.

In late 2018 the former Foreign Secretary for the UK, Jeremy Hunt, launched an inquiry into how the Foreign Office respond to such persecution. Mosaic Middle East submitted evidence to the inquiry, including from church leaders in Iraq. The resulting report led by the Bishop of Truro included a host of recommendations and the outcome of the report is being reviewed now, 3 years after its publication.

The degree of persecution of Christians might well surprise you considering that the mass media give such little attention to the issue. One million Christians have fled Iraq since 2003 leaving an estimated 250,000 still in the country. Despite this, the otherwise excellent BBC documentary series 'Once upon a time in Iraq' shockingly failed to cover the plight of the Christians. We criticised this failure at the time as did one of Iraq's leading Christian clerics, Archbishop Warda of the Chaldean Catholic Church. He was scathing about the 'airbrushing of the persecution of Christians'.

Of course it is not just Christians who suffer from religious persecution. The Rohingya persecution in Myanmar and the Chinese government's treatment of the Uyghurs are two terrible examples in recent years of the appalling treatment of ethnic Muslim communities.

More information about Mosaic can be found at:
<https://mosaicmiddleeast.org/>

2nd September - St William of Roskilde

Standing up for social justice

Here is a saint for anyone who thinks Christian leaders should stand up for justice – even at the risk of angering secular powers.

It all began when William was an English priest serving as chaplain to Canute, King of England, (1016-35), who decided to visit Scandinavia. William went along, and was so shocked by the ignorance, idolatry and superstition that he stayed on to help preach the Gospel. Eventually he became bishop of Roskilde (Zeeland), working tirelessly among the people as a beloved pastor.

But William's main challenge came in his determination to improve the conduct of the king, Sweyn Estridsen. The king had had some criminals killed without trial and in a church, violating sanctuary. William then forbade him to enter the church next day until he was absolved from the guilt of shedding blood unjustly. Courtiers drew their swords, and William showed himself ready to die. Instead, Sweyn confessed his crime and donated land to Roskilde church as a peace-offering. Thenceforward until the king's death Sweyn and William worked together to foster Christianity in Scandinavia.

11th September - St Protus and St Hyacinth

Victims of mindless violence

On this, the 17th anniversary of the Twin Towers, we remember two innocent people who also met their death in the flames of mindless violence. These were Roman martyrs mentioned in the 4th century list of martyrs. Hyacinth's tomb was discovered in the cemetery of Basilla, with his name and the date of his burial (11th September). Inside were charred bones, indicating death by fire. An inscription by Damasus says Protus Hyacinth were brothers, and another ancient source called them 'teachers of the Christian law'.

29th September

Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way.

After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows



he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist.

An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God.

An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a

dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A ‘young man’, whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn’t there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes ‘entertaining angels unawares’. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn’t.

Angels, quite simply, are God’s agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that anyone, in any situation, who is at that moment God’s ‘messenger’ to us, or serves us graciously, is an ‘angel’. So, when we say, ‘Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription’, we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Canon David Winter

Smile please! It’s Friday 7 October!

Friday is often said to be the happiest day of the week. Traditionally it was pay day, the end of the working week. If this is true, then Friday 7 October could be the happiest day of the year because it is World Smile Day 2022, the day when we are all asked to do a small act of kindness that will put a smile on someone else’s face!

And faced this autumn and winter with the worrying threat of the biggest ever cost of living crisis driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the ever increasing threat of violent gun and knife crime, the continuing threat of pandemics, and the increasingly serious climate changes that are having a devastating impact on millions of lives throughout the world, there is a greater need than ever to share some happiness.

The organisers quite rightly point out that what we can all focus on the small things we can control, like taking a little extra time to help someone with something, or to make them laugh. The idea is that if we all try to do one small act of kindness this World Smile Day, then, together, we can make a huge change in the world.

Smilie of a happy face Why not start by wearing a smiley face emoji that was designed in 1963 by an artist called Harvey Ball. He created the smiley face design for a local company that wanted to boost the morale of their employees. Over time, the design grew and grew in popularity until it became the international symbol of cheer and good will that it is today. Harvey never



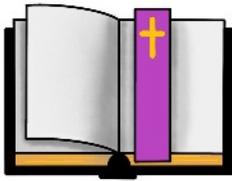
copyrighted or trademarked the design, so, despite the symbol's enormous popularity, the only money he ever made from the smiley face was the \$45 he was initially paid for it. Harvey, however, maintained a philosophical attitude about this, and was happy to see his design becoming used so much.

In the late 1990s, Harvey decided to that we should all set aside one day to simply smile and be kind towards each other, which is how World Smile Day came about. On this day, we can forget all our differences and just focus on being cheerful towards everyone we meet.

When he died in 2001, the Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation was set up to honour his name and memory by raising money for small, grassroots charities that would otherwise receive little attention or funding. There's a lot of truth in that well known song recorded by jazz pianist Seger Ellis in 1928, Louis Armstrong in 1929 and numerous famous singers ever since: When you're smiling, the whole world smiles with you!

**Don't treat prayer like a spare wheel
– it's the steering wheel.**

30 October The Challenge of Bible Sunday.



Bibles arrive in war-torn Ukraine
During the summer, some 168,000 Bibles and other Scripture-based books have been delivered to war-torn Ukraine.

Bibles have been in increasing demand since the war broke out. 'Living surrounded by death has caused people to ask questions about life,' said Anatoliy Raychynets, deputy general secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society. 'I have personally delivered several thousands of Bibles from hand to hand,' said Anatoliy. 'It is light in the darkness.'

Among the recent delivery were 34,000 compact Bibles in Ukrainian, 7,000 New Testaments and 57,000 booklets entitled Beyond Disaster which enable people to look at the trauma they've experienced through the light of the Bible. 'These are excellent for people on the move, who can't take much with them,' said Anatoliy.

Being able to give away small copies of the Bible is important when 14 million Ukrainians are internally displaced by the war. Since it began, the Bible Society of Ukraine has been delivering bread, first aid and copies of the Bible, but stocks soon ran low as demand outstripped supply.

Anatoliy explained how the Bible speaks into daily life. 'Daily life is heavy,' he said. 'You feel so tired. But, together with churches, we're doing our best to bring light to the darkness. The darkness is very deep. I want to express gratefulness for all the support.'



Wooden Bench, Kew Gardens

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885)

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury



Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a ‘horror’ of ‘cruelty and starvation’. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for

much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected

as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life's work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury's maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve conditions. He wrote: 'By God's blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.'

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of 'the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.'

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years. Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of 9 should work in the cotton or woollen industries below the age of 9, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'. One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'.

He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting



Which Magazine - Scam Alerts

Which Magazine is offering a free e-mail service to help you identify scams in all forms of media.

Which Scam Alerts service – sign up, it's free

The link is: <https://act.which.co.uk/page/103781/data>

Outsmart the scammers – Which alerts can help you spot and avoid the latest scams. Tell all your friends about this service which could save you getting 'scammed'!!

Recent Scams have been fake Santander, British Gas, 090 numbers. The service also tells you how to stop unwanted premium text messages being sent to you and about other ways you can protect yourself from being SCAMMED!.

Saying thank you to the Hidden Heroes

Three years ago on 29 September, Anne, Princess Royal, recorded a video message to personally thank the thousands of men and women that work on our behalf but are rarely seen, because they literally work behind locked doors.

The day of thanksgiving for their services soon grew into an annual national awareness day for Hidden Heroes after many other celebrities joined in with their personal video messages, and hundreds of others posted 'tweets' #hiddenheroes.

The Hidden Heroes are the 22,000+ officers serving in UK prisons, Immigration Removal Centres, and the probation and youth justice services. They are all public servants doing one of the most difficult, demanding and sometimes dangerous jobs on behalf of the people in their care and the public they seek to protect.

In the run up to Hidden Heroes Day, the Butler Trust organises a fund raising challenge designed to attract donations for the work of the trust which was originally set up in 1985 by a former prison governor, Rev Peter Timms and Veronica Linklater (now Baroness Linklater of Butterstone). The trust was named after Richard Austen Butler (RAB), later Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, and the Butler family have been closely involved with the trust since its creation. RAB was Home Secretary from 1957 to 1962. He introduced a series of reforms to improve the management, care and rehabilitation of offenders. The 1975 Butler Report, which he oversaw after leaving office, led to significant improvements in the management and care of offenders with mental illness.

Details of the current challenge, which in the past raised tens of thousands of pounds, can be found at:

<https://www.hiddenheroes.uk/charitychallenge/>

While good judgement comes from experience, it's worth remembering that experience often comes from bad judgement.



When a comedian, a bishop, two lads and a laptop walk into a racecourse it can mean only one thing – the return of the Christian Resources Exhibition to Sandown Park (Oct 11-13 2022).

Much-loved comedian Tim Vine (picture attached) will open the event, often dubbed 'the ideal church show', Bishop Mike Royal, general secretary at Churches Together in England, will explore the Windrush legacy and Mike Roberts, Nick Ingles and a laptop computer (picture attached) are set to serenade Sandown Park over all three days.

With a focus on the practical side of church life, CRE's 170+ exhibitors and 70-strong talks programme will offer expert advice on online worship services, fund-raising, church heating, climate change, chaplaincy and much, much more. Decades of experience have given the event's organisers unequalled understanding of local church needs. More than one in three visitors will be ordained and 38 per cent come as part of a local church leadership team – looking for advice on everything from lecterns to lighting, publishing to pulpits.

"Our visitors rely on us to bring together specialists with the expertise to help them," said Brett Pitchfork. "The nearest thing to a trade show for churches, we encourage local church leaders, officers and decision-makers to attend, particularly those with responsibility for the mission and maintenance of their churches."

Entry to the exhibition costs £8 on the door. *Some free tickets are available - contact The Editor - Messenger@questa.co.uk*

CRE National 2022 at Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey
opening hours: Tue 11 and Wed 12 Oct, 10am-5pm; Thu 13 Oct, 10am-4.30pm.

Visit creonline.co.uk for more information.

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