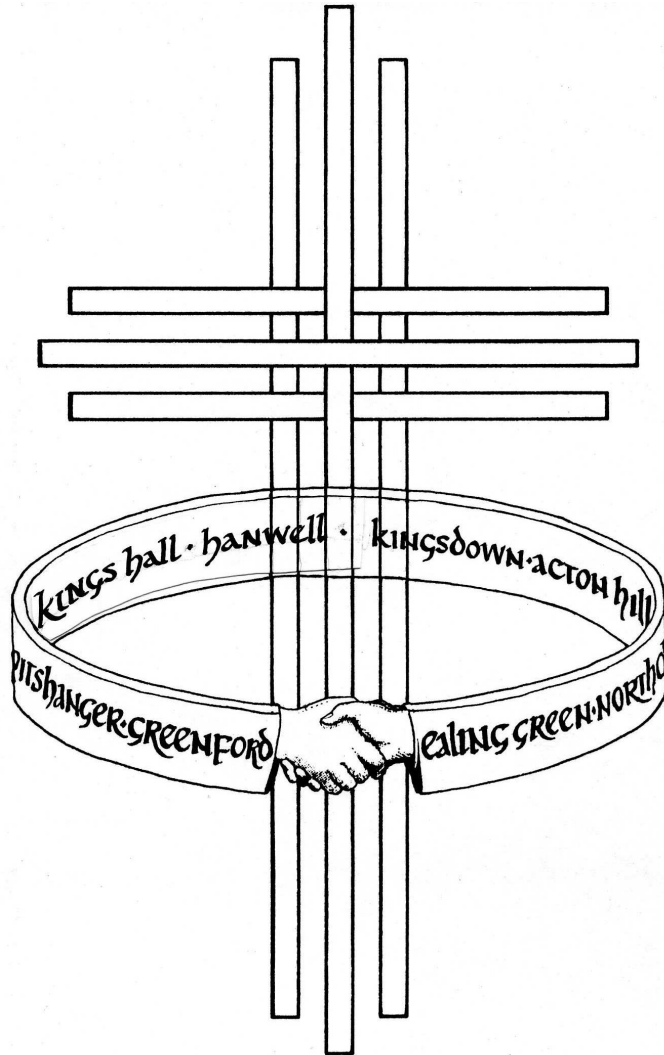


In-touch

No 67

March - May 2014



The magazine for *all* the Ealing Trinity Circuit.

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
• From the Superintendent	3
• Local Preachers on Note	6
• Rebecca Catford	6
• Rev Suva Catford	6
• New Ministers for Ealing Trinity Circuit	6
• West London Citizens <i>Deacon Richard Goldstraw</i>	7
• Christian Aid Week <i>Ruby Warne, Kingsdown</i>	8
• Circuit Discipleship Course	9
• Age UK London Business Directory	9
• Mission Seeds	10
• Helping the World's Poor <i>Gerald Barton, Editor</i>	11
• Road safety – A Forgotten Development Issue <i>Gerald Barton, Editor</i>	15
• Women's World Day of Prayer Service	17
• Remember – Spring 2014 <i>Mary Newman, Pitshanger</i>	18
• Circuit Directory Update	20
• Events Around the Circuit	20

Circuit website
www.ealingtrinity.org.uk

Front Cover designed by Marion Narain

From the Superintendent

Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of In-touch magazine, with news and reflection from around the Ealing Trinity Circuit. At our recent circuit service at Greenford Methodist Church (26th January, 2014) I suggested that despite the web of complexity in church life, we stay focussed on our core calling: gather the people, tell the story, break the bread.

What I meant was that most of the things we do fall into one of these three basic categories of purpose, and in the midst of complexity our way can remain simple. We gather people from within and without traditional church membership, in myriad different ways. We tell in our whole life together the good news of Jesus Christ, sometimes in worship, as often in meetings and other interactions; we break bread in worship, in pastoral care and work for social justice, we administer property, we build church structures to feed God's people - and the cycle begins again. In that spirit, I want to share news of work in progress and anticipated - not an exhaustive list but a snapshot of our life together as it develops:

Gather the people

- In September we will welcome two new ministers, the Revd Rachel Bending (Kingsdown, King's Hall and Southall development, UWLondon chaplaincy link) and Probationer Deacon Lemia Nkwelah (MHA live at home scheme development, King's Hall and Southall Development, other social outreach and support for pastoral care).
- From September Deacon Richard Goldstraw will continue in his 'welcome and well-being' remit for the whole circuit, but move to give specific pastoral support and be second minister at Acton Hill and Ealing Green, our URC/Methodist ecumenical partnerships.
- In July we will saying goodbye and Godspeed to the Revd Chrissie Howe, who takes up another station in Wales.
- In July we will also gather in Birmingham to celebrate the ordination of our probationer Presbyter, Suva Catford.
- With a specific goal for membership growth, we will continue with the regular pattern of Confirmation/Membership classes, open to all for refreshment of purpose.
- The Circuit leadership is developing the gifts and vision of its members: Circuit Stewards Blossom Jackson, Derek Nicholls, Barbara Quartey, David Street, and Mike Brown.
- Gerald Barton continues as the Circuit's administrative heartbeat, based in the office at Kingsdown church.

Tell the Story

- We continue in a regular pattern of Bible study and seasonal courses, sprinkled with chances for local quiet days and other activity, to build our discipleship: including the 'Living and Dying well' encounters, in January drawing over 20 people to a mid day meeting.
- We have two new local preachers 'on note,' Ade Benson (with Suva Catford) and David Richards (with Anita Oji), and several considering a vocation to preach.
- Our Circuit's candidate for presbyteral ministry has progressed through district selection to connexional: pray for Rebecca Catford in her journey!
- We are becoming more intentional in our use of the 'means of grace': private and group prayer, Bible study, regular Holy Communion, and investing in discipleship development through grants from the circuit training fund.
- We are looking to invest in congregational life to encourage local officers: reducing anxiety, working in less isolation with more support.
- We have many interesting conversations about the nature of mission, as our churches discuss and decided how to spend their 5000 'talents' grants from the circuit. More news on that in the next In touch!
- In large part, reconciliation of the conflicts within our King's Hall churches: the English speaking to become a class meeting of Kingsdown, but retaining worship at Hanwell; the Urdu speaking worshipping at Hambrough primary school and re-focussing on mission and fellowship having lost 2/3 of its membership, but hopeful for the future.

Break the bread:

- Continued Circuit mid-week worship, 10.30 am Wednesdays with ordained Methodist presbyters sharing leadership at Holy Trinity parish church, Southall Park. Open to all (worshipping in vestry in cold weather) and a regular prayerful gathering of 8-12 Methodists and Anglicans.
- Churches help in making the circuit Plan and work for better communication and preparation with local preachers, improved worship facility with projection and new preachers coming into action
- A regular collaborative meeting of church treasurers, to make circuit budget and process transparent and support each other's ministry
- Growing circuit involvement with West London Citizens, through their listening campaign for social service users, direct action, and other programmes.

- So many outreach programmes happening in churches: a return of King's Hall's Urdu language congregation's pre-Easter ecumenical choir event, foodbank in Hanwell and Greenford involving almost every church in the circuit, the Acton community meal, the Pitshanger 'youth group' for the retired, meals and fellowships of all shapes and sizes, and you can expand the list!
- Churches supporting each other and sharing experience with property and refurbishment: Ealing Green's to go ahead in the coming months.
- Specific mission development in Southall: these bits are not complete, nor even certain, but seeds planted:
 - Congregational re-plant into long-term leased space in a redeveloped King's Hall building, sold (bids closed Feb, 2014): 2,500 sq m multi-purpose D1 community use space, as a base for mission of all kinds.
 - The possibility of a shared Christian schools' worker, to support our outreach in schools across the circuit, and be present for young people in Southall
 - The possibility of developing a hub for theological education (training ministers, and lay people) with a focus in church growth in urban, multi-faith settings - shared with our national learning and discipleship network, and the Church of England's St Miletus college.
 - The possibility of sharing in the development of a Christian ethos health centre, at Holy Trinity Southall where we presently share weekly worship.

You may find you would put specific bullet points in a different category - think about why, and which one? And what is not mentioned that should be - put a paragraph through for the next edition of In-touch.

But all this news, (and this is certainly not an exhaustive list) takes us back to our basic purpose in gathering the people around the person of Christ and the vision of his kingdom. It is an exciting time in our Circuit - not always simple in process, but simple in purpose. Gather the people, tell the story, break the bread.

Be encouraged, friends, stay honest and stay in touch.

Every blessing,



Local Preachers on Note

Our Circuit currently has two local preachers 'on note'. Adelosha Benson, who went 'on note' a little while ago, but had to withdraw, has now gone back 'on note'. She is joined by David Richards from Pitshanger. 'On note' is the first stage of training to become a local preacher. Anita Oji will act as mentor to David during the first part of his studies.

Rebecca Catford

Rebecca's candidacy for the Methodist presbyteral ministry was confirmed by a large majority of the London District Committee in January. She will now go forward to the Connexional selection process which will be held during March. Please remember to hold Rebecca in your prayer as she goes through the selection process.

Rev Suva Catford

Rev Suva Catford will be giving her testimony at the Ordinands Testimony Service at Wesley's Chapel on Sunday 18th May 18 at Wesley's Chapel. Prior to ordination, all ordinands must give their testimony at a special service and Suva will be giving hers along with about five others from the London District. Suva invites everyone who would like to attend to do so. Wesley's Chapel is at 49 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU and the nearest tube stations are Old Street (exit 4) and Moorgate.

New Ministers for Ealing Trinity Circuit

Kingsdown and the two King's Hall congregations will have a new minister from September this year. Rev Rachel Bending will be joining our Circuit and will have pastoral charge of these three congregations. Rachel joins us from the Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham Circuit. Along with her husband, Thomas she will move into the manse at 91 Elers Road. This follows Rev Chrissie Howe's request for curtailment of her appointment in our Circuit for family reasons.

Our Circuit will also be joined by a second deacon, Lemia Nkwelah, who is a probationer deacon, in September. Lemia was born in Zimbabwe but is a UK citizen and is in her final year of full-time theological study at Wesley House, Cambridge. Lemia will be based at the Greenford manse and will work on mission development in Southall, and with MHA. She will also undertake other mission work and will work alongside our current deacon, Richard Goldstraw on 'Welcome and Well-being' across the Circuit. Richard's current role will change somewhat to become second minister at Acton Hill and Ealing Green. In addition, the URC Synod has confirmed that Richard will be received as a full member of their Synod on 20th September 2014.

West London Citizens

Deacon Richard D Goldstraw

You may be aware that as a Circuit we are signed up to be part of London Citizens and we are in the West London zone. Over the past few months it has been a great joy to meet up with people from other churches in Ealing who are part of West London Citizens and also meet those from other faith traditions and none. Both Christina Tom-Johnson and I have taken part in the training and this is available to anybody in the Circuit. Do ask me when the next training sessions are.

What is 'London Citizens'? It was launched in 1996 and is now, and I quote using London Citizens literature, "*the UK's largest independent alliance with over 250 schools, churches, mosques, trade unions, charities and local associations*". It is made up of four chapters the East (Telco), South, West and North. "*Over the past fifteen years, London Citizens has become a major player in both national and London-wide politics. Our goal is social, economic and environmental justice. London Citizens works with leaders from across the City to influence the governance of the UK, reform the asylum system, end poverty, improve housing and make London safer. We meet these goals by training people of all ages, faiths and backgrounds to take action together for positive social change*".

The CitySafe Havens began after the murder of teenager Jimmy Mizen in 2008. Shopkeepers offer a place of refuge to a young person who may be experiencing anti-social behaviour such as bullying. Some of the shopkeepers in Southall have offered to be CitySafe Havens and as a member of West London Citizens I will be visiting some of those shopkeepers along with other West London Citizens to see how they are doing as CitySafe Havens. In addition, West London Citizens have of late been encouraged to do listening campaigns in their communities. Christina and I listened to the views of Northolt. Later, Citizens members gathered from across the borough and there were several themes coming through:

- Social Care and Living Wage
- Homelessness
- Prostitution
- Green Issues
- Poor state of our high streets
- Lack of disability access - none at Southall and Ealing Broadway stations to name but two.
- Public transport, particularly safety for young people on buses.

Now, which one of us and those close to us, has not been affected by any one or all of these issues? Which one of us does not have a view or indeed a passion to get something done for the common good?

At the time of writing, groups from West London Citizens (mine is on homelessness) will be presenting their findings at a Delegates Assembly on Thursday February 27th 2014 at Hanwell Methodist Church from 7.00 -9.00pm. I am hoping that 5 members from the Circuit will come along so that we have a vote, as members, on which of the issues should be to be worked on further and taken before the relevant bodies who have the power to bring about change.

I am not a political animal but I have been deeply moved and inspired over the years by the work of London Citizens.

Just before Christmas at a big gathering of London Citizens in an East End Mosque many Citizens were honoured. Amongst them was Bernadette Farrell, a founding member of Citizens. She is a musician and we sing one of her hymns 'Longing for Light' (STF 706). This hymn beautifully illustrates what the work of the Kingdom is about and I believe Citizens is about doing Kingdom work. It's about serving. Do please take up the opportunity to train – please ask me when the next training sessions are due to take place (by the way, it's free!).

Christian Aid Week

Ruby Warne, Kingsdown

Christian Aid Week this year will be 11th – 17th May and many of us will be house-to-house collecting and taking part in the flag day on Saturday 17th May and Circle the City on Sunday 18th May. Last year most of the churches in our Circuit participated and the amounts collected were:-

Acton Hill	£792.82
Ealing Green	£2,220.01
Greenford	£189.00
Hanwell	£1,611.27
Kingsdown	£3,258.05*
Pitshanger	£1,020.00
Total	£9,091.15

**Includes Circle the City (£389) and Richmond Park sponsored walk (£426)*

John Bearstall, Ealing Treasurer for Christian Aid, writes, "Please convey the thanks of Christian Aid headquarters for all the hard work done by everybody involved. The effort put in by all the churches is greatly appreciated."

Circuit Discipleship Courses

Lent Course

Once again this year, as part of the Circuit Training & Discipleship, a Lent Course is being organised for everyone in the Circuit. The course will explore spiritual practices - fasting, scripture, prayer (two sessions), fellowship and the Lord's Supper. Like last year, sessions will be weekly and there will be daytime and evening sessions –

Hanwell Tuesdays, 7.30 – 9.00pm

Pitshanger Thursdays, 10.00 – 11.30am

The course starts on Tuesday 11th March / Thursday 13th March and will run to Tuesday 15th April / Thursday 17th April.

Membership & Refresher Study

Starting on Sunday 4th May, the Circuit will run a Membership & Refresher Study Course. Sessions will take place at Kingsdown from 5.00 – 6.30pm. The course is designed for people wanting to become members of the Methodist Church and also for current members who would like to take a fresh look at their membership.

There will not be a session on 18th May because that Sunday we are all invited to attend the Ordinands Testimony Service at Wesley's Chapel.

Age UK London Business Directory

Age UK has set up a London Business Directory listing reliable traders across London. Trade members are vetted by Age UK London staff and must sign up to a 'customer charter' guaranteeing excellent service. The Directory is making its way across London and is currently available in Hillingdon, Ealing, Brent, Harrow, Bromley and Greenwich, Southwark and Lewisham, and will soon be available in Wandsworth and Lambeth.

To find out more, go to www.aubdlondon.co.uk or call 0800 334 5056 free.

If you have any questions regarding this service, would like details of Age UK's checking process, would like to know which boroughs the Directory is expanding to next, or are interested in becoming an approved Age UK London Business Directory Member, contact Age UK on the number above.

Mission Seeds...

One part of the station profile for our probationer deacon (Lemia Nkwelah, arriving Sept 2014) is to look at developing a circuit-wide MHA live-at-home scheme, initially based in Greenford but spreading... here's a taster about what the programme is like, co-ordinated from a church but drawing most volunteers from other parts of its community!

Taking a Moment for Live at Home

Republished from the winter 2013 issue of 'Heart and Soul,' the magazine of Methodist Homes for the Aged

A moment - that's all it takes to make a difference to an older person. MHA's live at home schemes depend on the kindness of volunteers who create magic moments by giving of their own time, and now pop star Shane Lynch has joined the flock.

The Reigate and Redhill Live at Home scheme was thrilled to participate when ITV's This Morning programme launched its 'Take a moment' campaign. Fronted by This Morning presenters Philip Schofield and Holly Willoughby, 'Take a moment' aims to get 50,000 people to put a moment of kindness into the world - anything from a day of volunteering at a charity to helping a vulnerable adult cross the road. As part of this, This Morning is regularly featuring celebrities taking their own moments for acts of kindness.

Thus it was that Shane Lynch, star of '90s boy band Boyzone, came to visit Reigate and Redhill member Joan Argles. Shane knocked on Joan's door before introducing himself and asking how he could help. On being told her lawn needed mowing, he promptly set to work, and even brought in some windfallen apples for her. The two of them enjoyed some conversation and laughs together. After departing, Shane said, "That didn't take any time at all, and I met a lovely lady called Joan. If you have the time, take a moment to get out there and help your community."

Joan told Heart and Soul, "He is a very charming man and I was delighted to meet him. It is actually quite a big lawn and he didn't have time to do it all while it was being filmed. So after the cameras had stopped, he came back to finish it. That proves he wasn't just doing it for show - he was doing it for the right reasons and really did want to help. It was ever so sweet of him!"

Tanya Stafford, Manager of Reigate and Redhill Live at Home, said, "Volunteers at Live at Home know just how much difference just a moment of their time can make. This was a great way of getting the message across!"

Helping the World's Poor

Gerald Barton, Editor

When I think of how we can help the world's poor in developing countries, I usually think of aid agencies such as MRDF or Christian Aid or other organisations running programmes or supporting projects directed at, for example alleviating poverty, or poor health, or educational systems. These could be anything from running training or health programmes to building schools or hospitals. Generally speaking, though, there is an implicit assumption that 'we' need to help 'them', and the organisations helping 'them' have greater knowledge and expertise both to understand and deliver what 'they' need than 'they' do themselves.

As readers of In-touch may remember, I have written on a couple of occasions about 'Lendwithcare'. Run by Care International, Lendwithcare channels funds to microfinance organisations extending small-scale loans to small entrepreneurs in various developing countries. I like this approach to helping the world's poor because it's about them helping themselves. Small business people gain access to finance which they often cannot get from traditional lenders. This allows them to develop their businesses, better their economic circumstances and raise themselves out of poverty. There's also a knock-on effect to people they do business with, thus improving the lot of other people around them as well.

Fairly recently, I came across a radically different approach to the way we normally think about aid – direct cash transfers. Essentially this is simply giving people money to use as they think fit. Sometimes, these schemes include conditions, such as sending children to school, sometimes not. Either way, recipients are free to do what they want with the cash they receive. Unlike the traditional way of giving aid, this approach does not assume that 'we', or the aid agencies, know what's best for the recipients of aid, but that they are perfectly capable of working out what's best for themselves.

This approach started in about 2000 in Latin America with programmes such as Brazil's *Bolsa Família* and Mexico's *Oportunidades*, and has since spread around the world. Governments gave poor households small stipends to use as they wished on condition that their children went to school or visited a doctor regularly. This approach does not replace traditional aid, but has different priorities, ie supporting individual household budgets and helping women in particular (most payments go to women). One advantage of schemes giving direct cash transfers is that they are cheap to run compared with traditional ways of giving aid.

Give Directly, a US-based charity providing aid in Rarieda District in western Kenya for the last three years goes a step further. It gives direct transfers without conditions. Recipients aren't required to fulfil any conditions, just spend the money as they think best. Firstly, Give Directly studied Kenyan census data to identify the most impoverished regions. It then selected villages having poor quality housing but with access to the mobile phone operator Safaricom and their M-Pesa mobile payment system. The poorest households within each village are then identified

using criteria based on the physical structure of houses – households must live in houses made of mud, wood and grass to be eligible. The mobile phone numbers of these households are then recorded, or the households given a SIM card so they can register with M-Pesa.

Initially, the founder of Give Directly, Michael Faye took his idea of giving ‘free money’ to traditional aid donors, but they thought it ‘cracked’. However, others liked the idea – Google contributed \$2.4m and Facebook \$600,000.

Thus far, Give Directly has located 732 eligible recipients in 50 villages. On average recipients live on \$0.65 per day, and only 18% of eligible households report having enough food for tomorrow. On average eligible households earn 45% less than their ineligible neighbours.

Give Directly transfers money from their own M-Pesa account to the recipient's M-Pesa account. As a security measure they only transfer funds to a recipient if the name in their records matches the name on the national ID document the recipient used to register for M-Pesa. The recipient gets an SMS text message reminding him or her of the transfer and then collects the transfer from a local M-Pesa agent, who is typically a shopkeeper in the recipient's village or in the nearest town. The recipient transfers his or her electronic balance to the agent's phone in return for cash.

Recipients use transfers for whatever is most important to them; they are never told what to do. To date recipients report using transfers for a wide variety of purposes including buying food, investing in their homes, paying school fees, buying livestock, buying land, and buying clothing. The most frequently reported use is buying new metal roofs to replace thatched roofs. Thatched roofs are leaky and need replacing twice a year. Metal roofs last much longer so are regarded as a good investment.

Does this approach really work? The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has studied randomly selected households in 63 villages which have benefited from Give Directly's cash handouts. They found that the number of children going without food for a day had fallen by third, and livestock holdings had risen by half. A year after the scheme began, incomes had risen and recipients seemed less stressed according to tests of their cortisol levels. However, some people were bemused as to where the money had come from – some thought it had come from Barack Obama. His father was, after all a member of the same Luo tribe.

A different scheme has been running in northern Uganda for the last four years. In this case, the government gives a lump sum of about \$10,000 to groups of about 20 young people who get together to apply. The idea is for the money to be used to learn trades, set up businesses and finance tools and stock – applicants must submit a business plan to be eligible.

Over the four years of the scheme, studies by Columbia University, New York have shown that average earnings have been found to have risen by almost 50%.

In addition, they suggest that this kind of scheme – unconditional cash transfers work best when lack of money is the main problem. Those recipients starting with least, tend to do best. Interestingly, in those conditions, this type of scheme tends to give a better return than the traditional job-training schemes run by mainstream aid agencies. It may be that recipients know better what they most need than mainstream agencies do. Also, unconditional schemes have an advantage over conditional schemes (where strings are attached, such as a requirement to send children to school) as otherwise potential recipients may, through no fault of their own not be able to meet the conditions (eg because they live too far from the nearest school).

It would, however be simplistic to conclude that schemes based on no-strings unconditional cash handouts are necessarily better than those that come with strings attached. Give Directly's grants are generous by Kenyan standards – they are worth about two year's income. In contrast, the world's biggest conditional scheme, Brazil's *Bolsa Família* gives grants worth about 3% of average income. In other words, for equivalent grants, you can help one poor Kenyan a lot, or three Brazilians a little. Which is better depends on whom schemes are trying to help and what problems they face.

One clear difference between giving cash with conditions and without is that cash with conditions tend to have impacts on the next generation. Adding conditions such as a requirement to send children to school, or that they should regularly visit a doctor has benefits in terms of producing healthier and better educated children who, throughout their lifetimes are likely to earn more. This works to cut poverty both now and in the future, whereas unconditional cash handouts are very much focussed on cutting poverty now.

Studies conducted for the World Bank conclude that conditional cash transfers work better when the problems go beyond mere shortage of cash. For instance, when families do not appreciate the benefits of education, or if part of the benefit comes as a result of everyone doing it, as is the case with vaccination. In these circumstances, people left to their own devices may not spend enough on health or education. Adding conditions helps overcome that.

Attaching conditions to cash handouts also has political advantages. For example, requiring children to be sent to school creates a demand for better educational facilities, thus changing the behaviour of donors as well. Secondly, knowing that there are conditions attached reassures the people and organisations putting up the cash as it is clear that the poor aren't getting something for nothing.

With or without conditions however, it is clear that the stereotype of poor people as inherently feckless or ignorant and always needing guidance from 'experts' is incorrect.

This article is based on one printed in The Economist on 26th October 2013

Road Safety – a Forgotten Development Issue

Gerald Barton, Editor

When we think of the scourges that cause high levels of death in poor and developing countries, we usually think of disease – HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria etc or hunger as the main killers. We don't often think of road traffic as a significant killer, but it is, and it's rising as people gradually get richer and the number of vehicles increases.

According to the World Health Organisation worldwide, in 2012 there were about 1,240,000 people killed on the roads – that's about 3,400 every day. About 92% of these deaths occurred in low and middle-income countries in Southeast Asia and Africa, 59% were adults between the ages of 15 and 44, 75% were men and 50% were pedestrians, cyclists or motorcyclists. As countries develop, road networks expand and the number of vehicles increases, the total number of road deaths worldwide is forecast to increase to about 2,000,000 by 2030. This equals forecasts for deaths from HIV/AIDS in that year and is four times the forecast for deaths from either malaria or tuberculosis.

The rising toll of death and injury on the road might be thought of as an inevitable consequence of economic development. In 1926, the first year when the number of road deaths in the UK was recorded, 4,886 people died on our roads. This number peaked in 1966 at 7,985 but has since fallen significantly and was 1,754 in 2012. Despite major increases in the number of vehicles on our roads and the total distance driven since 1966, the number of people killed has dropped quite dramatically. In fact, the UK along with Sweden and Norway are some of the safest countries in the world for road users.

The improvement in road safety and reduction in road deaths in the UK, and also in other developed countries, has come about for a number of reasons – improvements in vehicle safety, provision of pavements and pedestrian crossings, separation of pedestrians from fast traffic, laws enforcing the wearing of seat belts and motorcycle helmets and stricter enforcement of speeding and drink-driving laws. Putting safety first has cut road deaths and injuries remarkably.

The problem in the developing world, put simply, is that safety is not keeping up with rising vehicle use. Road deaths are not just a human tragedy, but also have significant knock-on effects. Over a third of road accident victims are under 30, with road accidents being the leading cause of death worldwide for people aged 15 – 29. Most of these are young men, who use roads more and take more risks than other groups. Many of these people were, or would soon become family breadwinners. Victims' families are then often plunged into poverty, sometimes for two or three generations. The International Road Assessment Programme estimates that road deaths and injuries cost 2% of gross domestic product (GDP) in rich countries and 5% of GDP in low and middle-income countries, including medical and care costs, lost output and vehicle damage.

Investment in roads brings many benefits linking isolated communities to jobs, markets, schools and hospitals. Unfortunately, safety is often forgotten or afforded a low priority. For example, in 2008 the A104, a busy part of the Northern Corridor in Kenya was upgraded with funding from the European Union. Almost all the \$91m funding went on asphalt and virtually none on safety. Cars and trucks, often overloaded, speed along at 80mph. No provision was made for overtaking nor for pedestrians. In consequence, local hospitals are inundated with casualties. Overall road accident casualties account for about half of admissions to Kenya's surgical wards. Furthermore, one local hospital readmits at least two patients a month who have been run over whilst waiting for a bus minutes after being discharged.

Around \$500 billion is spent on roads worldwide every year. If just 1 – 3% of construction budgets were spent on safety, roads could be made much safer. The savings, not just of human tragedy but also in terms of reduced medical and care costs and avoiding families falling into poverty as a result of losing breadwinners would be enormous. Arguably, the effectiveness of other types of programme, for instance to reduce deaths from disease, is muted if lives saved are then put at risk because of lamentably poor road safety.

In many ways the death toll on the world's roads is a forgotten issue. It is perhaps too easy to regard it as being just a part of life – it's easy to forget that on average almost 5 people died every day on the roads in the UK. However, far too many people die on the roads in poor and developing countries, and many of those deaths could be prevented by fairly simple measures if road safety was given the priority it deserves.

This article is based on one published in 'The Economist' on 25th January 2014

“Death in Venice”

A Murder Mystery Evening

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm

It's 1946 at the Venice Film Festival..... A group of film stars and business people meet at the palazzo of Romeo Bechini, when..... film star Leonardo di Capulet is found in his bath, dead! Another case for Inspector Montepiccolo of the Polizia di Stato, but can you solve the mystery first?

Find at Kingsdown's Murder Mystery Evening “Death in Venice”.

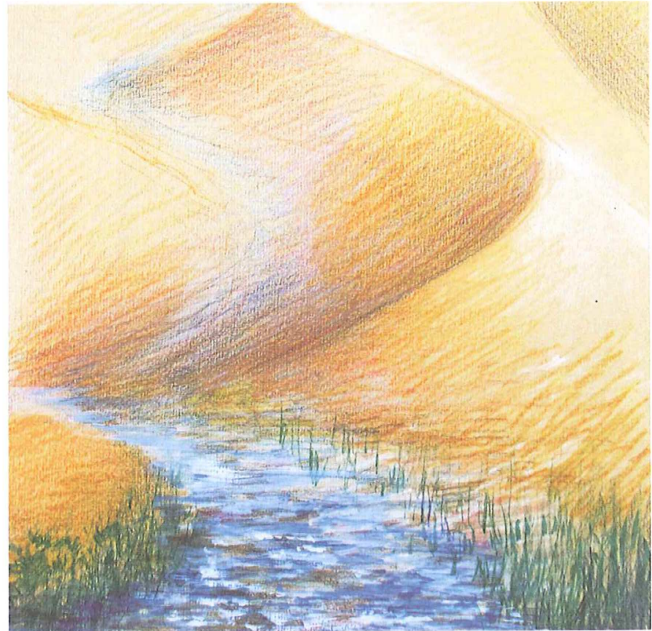
Tickets are £5.00 (adults) and £2.50 (12 and under) including a light Italian-style supper of pizza, salad and gelato so please reserve your place in advance, and are available from Sue and Gerald Barton on 020 8840 7704 or e-mail gerald.barton6039@btinternet.com.



'Streams in the Desert'



Friday
7th March
Women's
World Day
of Prayer
All are welcome



Praying for Egypt

Kingsdown Methodist Church

Kingsdown Ave W13 9PR

at

1.30pm

Speaker

Rev. Suva Catford

www.wwdp-natcomm.org Registered Charity Number 233242

Remember - Spring 2014

Compiled by Mary Newman, Pitshanger

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100 v 5

When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places –

What is man, that you think of him?

Mere man, that you care for him?

Yet you made him inferior only to yourself;

You crowned him with glory and honour.

Psalm 8 v 1-4

The Lord's Prayer

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say "I".

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say "My".

Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not pray for another;

For to ask for our daily bread, you include sister and brother.

All God's children are included in each and every plea;

From the beginning to the end of it, it does not once say "Me"

Anon

A Story of Love

A couple of years ago my friend Terry was on the phone from Malvern and told me that a member of the French conversation class she attends had been getting engaged to a lovely man when she suffered a major stroke and is now in a nursing home.

The couple in question were very happy that they had found love again, before the tragedy occurred. Both had been widowed for sometime and both their families were happy that they had found love together.

Terry then told me that Neville still visits Margaret regularly in the nursing home.

Terry was astonished when I told her I already knew about this. You see, the man in question happens to be my brother's best friend from when they were both officer trainees in the R.A.F.

What Terry didn't know, though, was that after Margaret went into the nursing home Neville went to see her one day and gave her the beautiful diamond engagement ring that he had been planning to give her before she was taken ill.

Though she is unable to speak or move the love that Neville has for Margaret is still there. Neville's sight is failing and he is no longer able to drive but 2 years later he still visits her 2 or 3 times a week.

Some Thoughts about Love

How on earth are you ever going to explain in terms of chemistry and physics so important a biological phenomenon as first love?

Albert Einstein

It is best to love wisely, no doubt; but to love foolishly is better than not to be able to love at all.

William Makepeace Thackeray

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15 v 9-12

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins

1 Peter 4 v 8

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved – loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.

Victor Hugo

It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.
It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.

Mother Teresa

I wonder if any of you saw this letter in the newspaper in December, sent by Rev Canon John Young in Yorkshire:

“My friend, a retired Methodist missionary who now lives in Britain but who had served in South Africa, answered her phone one evening to find Nelson Mandela on the line.

He was ringing from Buckingham Palace, during a state visit, to thank her for visiting him in prison on Robben Island. Anyone would be moved, as I was, by his gratitude and humility.”

Some Thoughts for All Day, Every Day

My dear friend, Mavis, on a trip back to London from Nashville gave me a present which I treasure very much. It’s a perpetual calendar, with many lovely readings and poems.

One that I am going to share with you is such a favourite of mine that I read it every day, even though I know it by heart:

Love Him in the morning when you see the sun arising.
Love Him in the evening ‘cause He took you through the day.
And in the in-between times when you feel the pressure coming,
Remember that He loves you and He promises to stay.

John Fisher

Readings for Spring

God’s goodness and love	Psalm 100
Jesus the Real Vine	John Chapter 15
God’s love and mercy	Titus Chapter 3 v 4-8
The Resurrection of our Lord	Matthew Chapter 28 v 1-20

One last thought (I don’t remember where I heard this or saw this but it made an impression on me and I would like to share it with you)

“With God, suffering is never the final outcome.”

Circuit Directory Update

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

[as notified to, or discovered by, the Editor]

March

- 1st Sat 10.00am **Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar** at Hanwell
- 7th Fri 1.30pm **Women's World Day of Prayer service at Kingsdown**
The speaker will be Suva Catford
- 8th Sat 10.00am **Kingsdown Bookfair** with stalls
12.30pm *Proceeds to Workaid*
- 8th Sat 7.30pm **Murder Mystery Evening at Kingsdown**
Tickets £5.00 (£2.50 under 12's) including light supper
Contact Sue and Gerald Barton on 020 8840 7704
or gerald.barton6039@btinternet.
- 11th Tues 7.30pm **Hanwell - Circuit Lent Course** evening sessions begin
- 13th Thurs 10.00am **Pitshanger - Circuit Lent Course** daytime sessions begin

April

- 8th Tues 7.30pm **Hanwell - Circuit Lent Course** last evening session
- 10th Thurs 10.00am **Pitshanger - Circuit Lent Course** last daytime session

May

- 4th Sun 5.00pm **Kingsdown - Circuit Membership & Refresher Course** begins
- 10th Sat 10.00am **Kingsdown Bookfair** with stalls
12.30pm *Proceeds to Christian Aid*
- 18th Sun 6.30pm **Ordinands Testimony Service at Wesley's Chapel**
Rev Suva Catford will be giving her testimony and all the
Circuit is invited to attend

Articles for '**In-touch**' Issue No 68 (June - August) should be sent by e-mail headed '**In-touch**' to the Editor, **Gerald Barton**, or as hard copy to the Circuit Office.

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