

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

MAGAZINE

Changing lives for good through the power of God's word



Christmas 2024



A Word from the Editor:

Hello and welcome to the Christmas issue of the KMC Magazine.



It is nearly Christmas and whilst this season can bring much enjoyment and happiness, we have to recognise that this is not always the case for everyone. In particular, those who are on their own with perhaps no family or even friends to share this time of celebration at Jesus's birth. In this issue of the KMC Magazine there are three articles which are linked by the theme of our need for social interaction and how this can be achieved. Please share this information with anyone you know who may benefit at this time.

Also in this issue we highlight the passing of Tom Meller and Suzi Hadlow. Both were lovely people in their individual ways and their lives are remembered very fondly within these pages.

It is official! Raj Chhetri is a governor for the third time and until 2027. You can read what he is governor of on page 7. Congratulations to him on this success.

Congratulations are also due to Tarina Berry for another successful Coffee Morning held in September in aid of the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Charity. At the time of writing, over the past 3 years and with the help of KMC, businesses and the local community, Tarina has raised the magnificent sum of £3239.35.

Allan & Yvette Wright had a fantastic holiday in September where they managed to visit parts of America, Canada & Nova Scotia. Allan has kindly written a detailed synopsis of their extensive road trip which, together with the photographs, gives a real flavour of what they experienced.

Finally, many thanks to Lynda Shore for agreeing to be in the spotlight and be interviewed for the "Profile" pages in this issue. My apologies to her for having to wait so long for the profile to appear and hopefully this explains why she is looking so summery, when outside this December it couldn't look or feel less like summer! Of course, the weather is what we would expect at this time of year and so far we have experienced, rain, sun, wind, storms, frost, and sleet with mild days and biting cold ones. Some of us may be hoping or even wishing for a white Christmas. I am just hoping that whatever the weather, you all have a very happy Christmas, and a safe and peaceful New Year.

God Bless.

Robin Spice, Editor

KMC MAGAZINE

Editor: Robin Spice. Layout & design: Allan Wright. Proof Reader: Yvette Wright

NEXT ISSUE: Look out for information about the copy deadline in The Notices.

Copy to: Robin Spice - editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Message from Paul:

Hello everyone.

The Advent and Christmas material from the Methodist Church this year is called 'Hush the Noise' - it's all based on that lovely line from 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'.

We live amongst an enormous amount of noise don't we? It's even louder at Christmas but in fact it surrounds us all the time. Things we should be doing, stuff we should be paying attention to. All kinds of people trying to get our attention. We live in very noisy times.

Perhaps that is why various forms of meditation have become increasingly popular as we try to centre ourselves on the important things. All this noise can make us very anxious.

Perhaps the first thing we need to do is notice what it is that we are anxious about because we can put a lot of energy into avoiding the things that we are afraid of - and that energy goes into the panic and the anxiety. If we name the things we are anxious about and recognise them then we are far more able to remove their power and put them in their rightful place. In working hard to hush (not avoid) the noise this Advent/Christmas time it's a good idea to notice where that noise is coming from and why it's making us anxious. We can then name it - and set it to one side as we try to hush the mad rush of our lives to give some time to spending on our own spiritual journey this Advent and Christmas.

There's lots to do - I recognise that. But sometimes that 'stuff to do' is of our own making. I have halved the number of Christmas cards I send because the work of getting 350 cards sorted was causing me all sorts of stress and anxiety.

'Hush the Noise' so that when the Prince of Peace is born - we may be ready for his message of love and peace and justice.

Have a wonderful Christmas, [Paul](#)



USA & Canada – September 2024

During September Yvette, Allan & Juliette Wright went on a road trip to North America from 12th to 30th September. This is a summary of their trip.

We flew to Chicago via New York, travelling for 23 hours! We had one day to explore Chicago - taking in sights like the Millennium Park, home of the huge chrome “jelly bean” sculpture, the Cultural Center, where we saw the magnificent Tiffany Dome, and more.

The next day, we had a long drive to Traverse City, Michigan - 315 miles away, to catch a private flight to Beaver Island. Here we met our friend, Paul Welke, a pilot who runs Island Airways on Beaver Island, with a fleet of 5 Islander aircraft. Beaver Island sits in the northern waters of Lake Michigan. It is 56sq miles in size and the largest of the Lake Michigan islands, with a population of around 700. We had rented a house for 5 days. Life on Beaver Island is a little like turning back the clock, very relaxed, and traditional. We experienced the Northern Lights, and in the unusually warm weather spent time on the deserted beaches, watching the amazing sunsets.

At the Print Shop Museum, we learned a lot about the history of Beaver Island; how the Mormons had taken root, elected a “King” - James Strang, who almost declared independence from the state of Michigan, before the Irish came in and killed the King - ending a 6 year “reign” in 1850! So Beaver Island has strong Irish roots and is twinned with Arranmore in County Donegal. There is a standing memory to the “King”, as the only tarmacked road outside of St James Township is King’s Highway, running straight down the centre of the Island - about the only good deed carried out by King Strang.

We also had a day out exploring Charlevoix on the mainland, flying there and back with Island Airways. We saw the 1947 built drawbridge in operation, found a great café for lunch (a deliciously yummy corned beef hash with eggs and homemade lemonade) and the “Mushroom Houses” (traditional homes built from 1918 predominantly with thatched roofs).

On leaving Beaver Island, we flew back to the mainland, and set off for London, Ontario, Canada - a 5½ hour drive - 245miles.

Next on to Toronto, where we became four, meeting up with our niece, Becky. She has lived in Canada for the last 2 years and was to be our guide around Toronto and Niagara. With Becky we explored Toronto (or ‘Tor-on-no’ as the locals call it) - noting the contrast between new and old, towered over by the CN Tower. We were treated to sights otherwise unseen by tourists, as Becky knows Toronto well, having lived there for several months. Back street communities, legal cannabis shops and one great store called “Bulk Barn”, where you can buy all sorts of nuts, sweets, dried fruits and much more by the bag for very little.



The giant chrome “jelly bean” at Chicago’s Millenium Park.



A “Mushroom House” at Charlevoix, Michigan.



Next day we would explore Niagara. First, we drove to “Niagara-on-the-Lake” (or NOTL) a pretty 1800s style town on the south coast of Lake Ontario. We browsed the many gift shops and ended up in a lovely cheese shop, where we had the best cheese toastie in the world for lunch - yes, it was THAT good! NOTL is a beautiful place.

Next was Niagara Falls (Ontario - not the USA side). After parking we walked through some pretty awful, commercialised attractions (what on earth has King Kong got to do with Niagara Falls?!) to reach the natural beauty of the Niagara Falls. We went on the “Hornblower” boat for our exciting ride into the Horseshoe Falls. Even with the ponchos we were given we still got very wet!

After another day exploring Tor-on-no we then split up. Juliette went to New York to meet up with her boyfriend Peter, and Becky flew to Hawaii via Los Angeles (!!)

Yvette and I set off for Nova Scotia, driving north east passing Montreal and Quebec City, down through New Brunswick and ending up in Halifax. Lots of driving, and 3 stays in B&Bs on the way. One of the stops was at Otis, New Brunswick for our last night before reaching Halifax. On the way we stopped at Grand Falls, and after seeing Niagara a few days earlier, the Grand Falls were underwhelming to say the least!

Next we headed off to Hartland where we would find the World’s Smallest (24ft) and Largest (1282ft) covered bridges. The Largest was quite spectacular, but the Smallest - maybe not - probably just built as a tourist attraction!

Our stay in Otis was at the Big Axe B&B. The Big Axe name comes from the World’s Largest Axe (there’s a theme going on here...) which is a monument a couple of miles up the road from the B&B, at Nackawic. It was built in 1991, the year



The CN Tower in Toronto.



Niagara -on-the-Lake.



The World’s biggest axe at Nackawic.



The World’s Shortest and Longest Covered Bridges at Hartland, New Brunswick.



Nackawic was designated the Forestry Capital of Canada, to symbolize the significance of the forest industry in Nackawic and throughout New Brunswick. From Otis we had our last day of long driving - 5 hours and 330 miles to Falmouth, Nova Scotia, for a 3 night stay.

On the way we stopped at Hopewell Rocks, near Moncton. The rocks are only properly visible at low tide, which thankfully coincided with our visit. What a magnificent sight greeted us - these odd shaped massive rocks have a 52½ft tidal difference, from normal looking rocks at high tide, to huge odd-looking, top-heavy rocks, at low tide. We spent time on the beach looking at this strange phenomenon, and glad we made the long detour to see!



Hopewell Rocks, Moncton.

The next day was an awful day, cloudy with heavy rain (the only really bad weather of the holiday!) Following a meet up with another Islander operator, Sable Aviation, at Halifax Airport, we drove to Fisherman's Cove, a pretty fishing village. It was still raining, when we drove to Peggy's Cove, a well-known tourist spot. As we arrived the clouds parted and the sun came out! It was a wonderful place, a lighthouse on the rocks, set in a charming coastal area, and although busy with visitors, not overpowering so as other tourist spots can be.

On our penultimate day we explored Halifax. Taking the ferry across the Harbour we decided to stay in the Waterfront area, home of the Maritime Museum with exhibits on the Halifax Explosion (1917) and the Sinking of the Titanic (1912). The Halifax Explosion was an incident occurring in December 1917, when the French cargo ship SS Mont-Blanc collided with the Norwegian SS Imo in Halifax harbour. The Mont-Blanc exploded, devastating the surrounding area, killing 1,800 people, with 9,000 others injured. This was the largest human-made explosion at the time. The Titanic exhibit concentrated on the fact that it was Halifax that received the bodies recovered from the sinking, whilst survivors continued their journey to New York.

On our last day we had a flight home at 10pm, so a day more to explore! On the way to the airport we explored Lunenburg, a pretty Nova Scotian harbour town, Blue Rocks for a picnic lunch, Mahone Bay for a coffee, Hubbards, yet another pretty town, and lastly Queensland Beach. If only our swimwear wasn't deep in our suitcases - it was now very warm, and the sandy shore looked inviting! We sat on the rocks and people watched for an hour or so, then made off to the airport for the short 5½ hour flight back to Gatwick. Nova Scotia is beautiful, and we will certainly go back again to explore more. The whole trip was certainly one of our favourite life experiences, lots of driving, but the places we saw and people we met made it more than worthwhile. Highlights? Beaver Island (on our list for a return in 2026) and Nova Scotia!

Allan Wright, November 2024.



The pretty harbour at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.



Knaphill and St Johns Operatic Group presents...

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Family News

New Member

In September we welcomed **Lindah Chingwaru** to KMC as a new member. Lindah has recently returned from her annual visit to Zimbabwe to visit family members who still live in the country. It is a great pleasure to welcome Lindah into the KMC family.



Ruth The Musical



As mentioned in the Autumn Magazine, John has kindly remastered the DVD recording of this production which was performed at KMC in 2010 and this new version is available now. If you would like a copy please let him know at john.mynard@btinternet.com or jemmusic@btinternet.com

John does not intend to make any charge for this but would ask for donations to be made to church funds or to a charity of your choice.

Congratulations to **Raj Chhetri** as he continues in his role of Governor for the Surrey & Borders Partnership (SABP) NHS Foundation Trust.

Although I retired from the NHS after 44 years and 3 months service - 4 years and 3 months at St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey (General Nursing) and then 40 years in the Mental Health Service - Brookwood Hospital, Knaphill & the Ridgewood Centre in Frimley - I felt I could still contribute to the mental health service. So, I applied for the Governor post at Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. I was elected for a 1st term of three years for North-West Surrey and South-West Surrey. I then applied for a 2nd term and luckily was re-elected and my term ends this month.



The new policy in Mental Health Services started with Care in the Community and my responsibility as the Day Hospital Manager and Memory Clinic Nurse involved me having contact with both service users (patients) and their carers. The first Carer's Act empowered me to liaise with the Social Services departments in Surrey and Hampshire. The Care in the Community Policy also meant I had direct involvement with GPs and all the local authorities within Surrey and Hampshire too with particular emphasis on safeguarding.

With all this experience I decided to apply for the Governor post again for the 3rd and final time. Thankfully, I was elected unopposed for years 2025 to 2027.

This month I participated in the SABP Mental Health Service Carers Strategy Workshop. I believe the wellbeing of all carers should be valued given the selfless

caring they undertake to aid the wellbeing and safety of service users who are usually their loved ones too, of course. During my 18 years as the Day Hospital Manager and concurrently as the Memory Clinic Nurse, I learnt how important carers are in ensuring the wellbeing of their loved ones.

Please do remember during this festive season all carers of persons with physical or mental health issues as both the mind and body are connected. My mantra is: a human being is 3 - dimensional = mind, body and spirit (faith/religion or principles) that enables people to survive critical times in their lives.

Also do remember all those individuals with physical and/or mental health issues. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

NB: The Governor post is a voluntary position; I am inspired by Jesus's words: "I have come not to be served but to serve." **Raj Chhetri**

The Editor has recently had contact with **Rev Nigel Wright** who was the Minister here before David Faulkner. Nigel wishes to be remembered to everyone who was attending KMC during the years 2005 – 2010. He says that he and his wife Heather have lots of good memories of their time at KMC which included their wedding and the baptism of their child.

Nigel mentioned that his son is currently studying to be a paramedic at Brighton University; so we wish Dylan every success. Finally, Nigel also disclosed that he manages to keep up with KMC news by accessing the Magazine online and particularly enjoys reading the member profiles!

Thank you 1! I am sure everyone will join me in their thanks to all those who have cleaned our worship area during 2024. The 2025 rota will be available soon.

Thanks must also go to all those who have supplied flowers, money and arranged the flowers in our worship area in 2024.

The 2025 rota for this will also be available soon on the notice board in the Welcome Area. **Shirley Chase**

Thank you 2! I would like to say a huge "thank you" to all those who helped make the **Christmas Tea Party** a success. I won't name you individually, but you know who you are, and you're all incredible. Many thanks, **Helen Chamberlain**



Congratulations and best wishes to **Sally & Mike Allison** who became grandparents on Monday 9th December when their daughter gave birth to **Matilda Kate** who weighed in at 6lb 14ozs. Many congratulations to **Polly & Nick** who together with baby Matilda are all doing well!



Memories of Suzi Hadlow

Those of you who have been KMC members for a long time will remember Barbara Hadlow who fostered and then adopted Suzi from a very young age. Suzi had physical and learning disabilities due to having hydrocephalus which resulted in quite a few operations when she was younger. Suzi was not expected to live very long however due to the love and care provided by Barbara she thrived, only sadly passing away suddenly, earlier this year at the age of 37.



In memory of Suzi, Julia Broad, Sue Findlay and Eileen Lane have kindly provided these memories of her life.

Julia remembers when Suzi was born on 14th February 1987 when her own son was just 8 months old and 18 months later her twins being born. They were all good friends and attended Suzi's baptism at KMC, where all her children were baptised too.

Despite having many challenges ahead of her, Julia recalls Suzi being a happy, smiley little girl with a brilliant foster mother in Barbara. Suzi had a teddy named simply "Ted" and this teddy had many new eyes and noses over the years and remained in Suzi's possession for the whole of her life.

When Suzi was about 6 years of age, Sue recollects taking both Barbara and Suzi to her caravan in Ferring, near Worthing for a week's holiday during the summer. The journey down was always peppered with "are we there yet"? When Sue picked them up to return home there was constant talk about all the lovely things they had done during the week.

The caravan was on a site down a country lane which led to the beach and many happy hours were spent there with lots of stones brought back to the caravan which were added to every year! Both Barbara and Suzi looked forward to their trip to Ferring each year.

When it became more difficult for Barbara to look after Suzi, Suzi moved to a children's centre near Woking where Sue and Barbara would pick her up in the car and take her on little outings. Later Suzi moved to a residential centre in St Johns which was very convenient for Barbara to visit and for Suzi to visit Barbara at home.

Eileen says she feels really privileged about being able to recall her memories of Suzi. When Eileen came to live in Knaphill around 17 years ago and started attending KMC, she quickly became acquainted with Barbara and Suzi. In those days Eileen was still driving, and a regular Sunday afternoon trip was to Wisley with both of them. Suzi loved to participate in various events there especially

“Apple Day” and the Easter Egg trail – Suzi always made sure they all received a chocolate bunny!

When Barbara’s health deteriorated, and Suzi had to leave the centre in St Johns, Barbara eventually found Ashbrook House in Morden, a residential care home for adults. Suzi moved to this home in December 2015 and Barbara was able to see her happily settled there before very sadly passing away a few months later.

At Barbara’s funeral, Eileen met Suzi’s care worker and was able to make arrangements to meet up with Suzi 3 or 4 times a year together with Desna Berry and sometimes Sue Findlay too.

Twice a year they met at Wisley with the care home bringing and collecting Suzi. Suzi always wanted to go to the “Hungry Sausage” if it was open for lunch. Suzi loved football and would watch a match whenever possible. Her other great love was teddies and wherever she went she always wore a baseball cap!

Every year there was a trip to see “Father Christmas” at Wimbledon. Suzi always enjoyed joining the group who used to go out with Eileen on an outing in the summer because it gave her the chance to meet up with old friends. There were visits to Morden Hall Park and Hampton Park too where the “shop” was always a great attraction at whatever venue!

Each Christmas the care home took all its residents to visit their individual homes, and Eileen was always included on these trips which she felt was a great honour.

Sadly, on 19th August 2024 Suzi passed away suddenly.

Eileen says she will always be grateful to Suzi for wanting her to be part of her life. May she rest in peace.

Thomas David Mellor

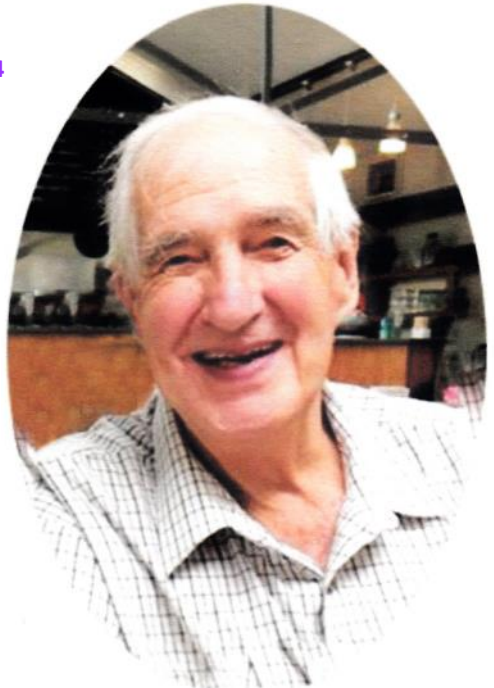
Sunrise 27 July 1938 - Sunset 21 September 2024

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Tom in September.

Tom was born on 27th July 1938 and lived on a farm with his parents in Goring by Sea, with his older brother and sister.

Tom met Marilyn, a farmer’s daughter in 1955 when they were both attending Merrist Wood Agricultural College. It was in 1957 that Tom started his National Service in the Royal Artillery, where he rose from Gunner to Bombardier.

Tom & Marilyn were married at KMC in August 1960 and they eventually moved to White Lodge in Queens Road where they had a dairy farm that has been their home ever since. Like Marilyn, Tom got involved with Bisley Guides too by helping



with fundraising events such as gang shows, pantomimes and village fetes. By 1999 Tom gave up milking, but continued to keep suckler cows. He was well-known at local allotments and many village people saw him driving his tractor to and fro between various sites.

Tom retired 18 months ago at the age of 84 when he sold his cattle and machinery.

Tom and Marilyn have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren with a 6th grandchild, a girl, born last month on 8th November.

There was a party in the garden in July for Tom's 86th birthday and Tom & Marilyn celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in August.

Tom was loving and thoughtful and a true gentleman to his family and friends and the KMC family take this opportunity to extend their sincere condolences to them on their loss. He will be much missed.

Marilyn would like to thank all those at KMC who sent cards and said prayers in support of her and the family at this time.



Christmas Cards

There is a list of folks I know all written in a book
and every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.
that is when I realise these names are just a part,
not of the book they are written in, but in my very heart.
Each name stands for someone who has crossed by path sometime,
and in meeting they've become a treasured memory of mine.
And whilst you may not be aware of any special link,
just meeting you has changed my life much more than you can think.
So never think my Christmas cards are just mere routine,
of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
it is because you're on that list of folks I'm indebted to.
Every year when Christmas comes I realise anew,
the very best gift life can give is knowing folks like you.
So may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures,
leave its richest blessing in the hearts of you and yours.

Author unknown.

The KMC Christmas Card is on page 17

Recipe Corner

Florentines

Here's a recipe for a luxury treat so what better time to make them than at Christmas!

A Florentine biscuit, known in Italian as biscotto fiorentino, is a sweet biscuit of nuts and fruit with a chocolate base.

Ingredients

50g butter	25g glace cherries or dried cranberries
50g caster sugar	25g raisins or sultanas
25g of self-raising flour	Grated rind of clementine or other citrus fruit
50g flaked almonds	About 100g plain chocolate at least 70%
50g peel	

NB if you want to make a dairy free and gluten free version use rice flour and dairy free margarine and make sure the chocolate is dairy free too.

Method

Line a baking tray with silicone paper.

Melt the margarine and sugar stirring in a pan. Add the flour, stirring for a moment.

Add the rest of the ingredients and mix thoroughly but quickly.

Place tablespoonfuls on the silicone paper and flatten gently, making sure all the nuts and fruit bits are touching.

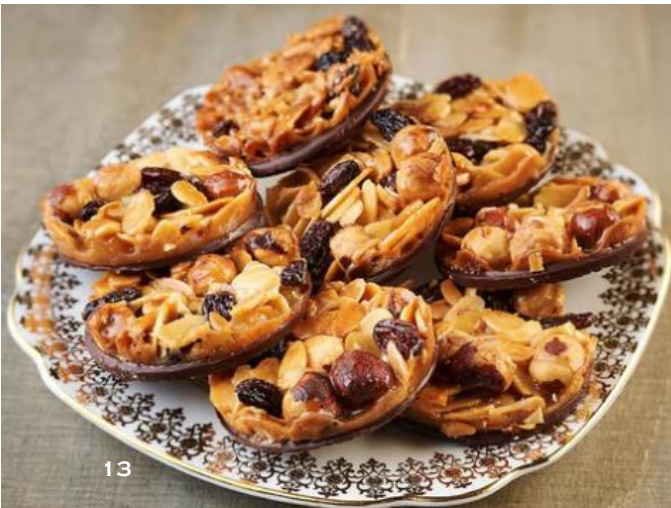
Bake until golden (about 10 mins) and the almonds toasted.

Cool on the tray for a few minutes and lift carefully onto a wire rack until cold.

Break up the chocolate into a small bowl and melt (on defrost in a microwave, or in a bowl over a pan of hot water).

Hold the Florentines over the bowl and run melted chocolate over the back with a spoon.

When nearly set, mark a wavy pattern on the chocolate with the prongs of a fork.



Dundee Cake

This recipe for Dundee Cake is from Helen Brice. Dundee cake is a traditional Scottish fruit cake. It is a good alternative to Christmas cake; it is not as rich and is lighter in texture.

Ingredients:

300g plain flour	200g raisins
1 teaspoon cinnamon	100g blanched almonds
1 teaspoon mixed spice	4 eggs
½ teaspoon salt	4 tablespoons milk, sherry or brandy
100g candid peel	1 lemon grated
100g cherries	1 tablespoon black treacle
480g currants	200g margarine
200g sultanas	200g demerara sugar

Method:

Sieve together dry ingredients.

Mix the peel, fruit, cherries, chopped almonds and lemon rind.

Whisk the eggs, milk, sherry or brandy together.

Cream the margarine and sugar and black treacle until soft.

Add flour and egg mixtures alternately to the margarine. Stir in fruit mixture.

Put into an 8 or 9in tin, lined with double thickness of greased greaseproof paper round the sides and brown paper and place greased greaseproof paper at the bottom.

Tie a double band of brown paper round the outside of the tin, standing well above the top of it.

Add almonds on top.

Bake for 3.5 hours at 300-350f or 170c for first 1.5 hours, then reduce to 275-300f or 150c for the remainder of the time.

Foot note. If you have a fan assisted oven it doesn't take as long to bake, possibly 2 hours altogether. So, first timing 1.5 hours and second timing 1 hour at the lower temperature.

Test by putting a needle in cake, if it is clean the cake is ready.



Here is a timely and heartwarming tale which I think helps focus yet again on the plight of those who need to flee their home country and come to the UK looking for a better life....

The Christmas Angel

He slipped into the church after dark, when the congregation had gone. He'd been on the road for a week, and there was nowhere else to go. The church walls would keep out the worst of the cold and damp. Inside it was quiet, and he felt safe for the first time for weeks.

He laid his tattered sleeping bag on the stone floor and sat on it, gazing at the decorated Christmas tree with its lights and baubles, and the star at the top that twinkled when he pressed the light switch.

After a while he climbed inside the sleeping bag and lay down. Yet he found himself resisting the sleep that threatened to overwhelm him, in case the dreams came again. Dreams of bombs and guns and knives, and the screams of those they destroyed. Instead, he lay remembering his mother's face as she pushed him on to the boat, already overloaded with young men, while behind her his little sisters wept. He would rather have stayed to look after them and taken his chance of execution. Now he did not know what had happened to his

family, and his own future looked bleak. From a distance, Europe had seemed a haven of peace and prosperity, a promised land. But the reality was different. Refugees were not welcome, and there were too many of them. He had run from border guards, police and gangs of smugglers, and he was still running.

"Are you awake?" a child's voice asked.

He opened his eyes. A little girl was sitting beside him. She was about 7 years old, with blond curls and blue eyes – very English.

"The tree is so pretty, isn't it?" she said. He saw that she was dressed in pyjamas



under her coat. “Don’t tell anyone, will you? I wanted to spend some time looking at the tree when we were here for the Crib service this afternoon, but we had to go to see Grandpa. I’m supposed to be in bed and asleep.”

He nodded cautiously. He understood English, but if he spoke his accent would betray him.

“Why are you here?” she asked him, looking him over more carefully.

“You look very tired. I’m sorry I disturbed you.”

He met her eyes gravely. How innocent she was. How unafraid. As his sisters had been, long ago before the fighting began. Apart from the blonde hair, of course. He smiled.

“That’s better,” she said. She fished in her coat pocket and brought out half a packet of biscuits. I’m afraid I stole these from the kitchen,” she confessed. “I thought I might be hungry. Are you hungry?” She held out the packet to him.

He took one. It crumbled in his mouth deliciously. He tried to remember when he had last eaten.

A whisper of cold air reached him as the church door opened and a tall man entered. He looked across at the two children by the tree.

“I thought this was where you must be Angie.” He moved towards them, and the boy shrank away into his sleeping bag. But the face that peered down at him was kindly, and the dog collar reassured him. “You found a friend, I see.”

The man’s voice was deep, and the boy could hear him smile. He felt himself relax, and the feeling of safety returned. The girl nodded.

“He didn’t tell me his name, but I don’t think he should sleep here tonight. It’s too cold. There’s plenty of room at the vicarage, though isn’t there, Dad?”

“There is indeed.” Angie’s father reached out a hand to the boy in invitation. “Do come,” he urged. “You’ll be so welcome.”

The boy stared at him.

“My wife died a few months ago,” the pastor when on. There was grief in his voice as well as kindness.



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Merry Christmas





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at KMC

Liz and Mike are disappointed to be missing the traditional Christmas services and celebrations while Liz is self-isolating.


We hope to be joining you soon.

We send our love to you all and thank you for your prayers and kind thoughts while Liz was in hospital.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025 x

Linda Todd and family send their love to all members of the KMC Church family - both near and far away! We wish you all a very happy Christmas season and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

God Bless.



*Greetings to you all at Knaphill,
for peace and happiness at Christmas and in the New Year
ahead.*

*With best wishes from your friends across the Channel,
Ann and Rob Gill.*

*HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD HEALTH
FOR THE TIME AHEAD*

Dearest Friends,

*We send our love and gratitude for your friendship,
and hope you understand we are now giving up writing
cards.*

We admit defeat!!

Lots of love

Sheila and John Mynard, Carole, Graham and Peter.

Sylvia Dowding remembers all her lovely friends at KMC.

Since COVID so much has changed.

Brian & I send Christmas Greetings to you all.



*Dear Friends at KMC,
I would like to give my Christmas Card message to you all.....
have a wonderful time with friends and family,
with seasons greetings,
Love from Vicki xx*

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy New Year.
The money I save on not buying cards will go to charity.
Lots of love
Susan. Xx*

*Wishing all at KMC a very Happy Christmas
from
Lynda Shore, Eileen, Jo, Nellie and Ena.*

*We wish everyone at KMC a Happy Christmas
and Best Wishes for 2025!
love from
Allan & Yvette Wright*

KSS Coffee Morning

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Saturday 7th September saw another special Coffee Morning being organised by our very own Tarina Berry in aid of the Kent Surrey & Sussex Air

Ambulance charity. In addition to the usual stalls, a Silent Auction was held, which continued during the following two Coffee Mornings raising the sum of £173.00. In total the whole event raised £1235.00 Well done to Tarina for organising everyone to reach this fantastic sum!

Please note that there will not be a Coffee Morning for this charity next year. Tarina is going to have a well deserved rest instead!



CAMEO *Come And Meet Each Other*

This is a social group who meet at KMC on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2pm until around 3.30pm with a break for Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays.

All are welcome.

Programme for January to April 2025:

15th January	Lynda Shore	Amnesty International
5th February	Age UK	Future Planning
19th February	West Surrey Badger Group	
5th March	Rev Paul Glass	
19th March	Marilyn Meller	My Guiding Life
9th April	Dee Roberts	Footsteps of St Paul

Holiday at Home

A report on the third coach trip this year as remembered by Eileen Lane....

On 19th September a number of intrepid adventurers departed by coach to visit Rochester in Kent on a day trip arranged by Bob Bailey for “Holiday at Home”.

Our trip started at the “open air” museum that is Chatham Dockyard. There are a variety of “old” famous boats there to explore and a submarine. The Dockyard is the world’s most complete dockyard of the Age of Sail – a time when the Royal Navy dominated the oceans, establishing Great Britain as a global power.

Amongst the exhibits is HMS Gannett, which was built on the River Medway at Sheerness in 1878. It was designed to patrol the world’s oceans, and she “flew the flag” protecting British interests around the world. She saw service in the South Pacific, the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Powered by both sail and steam and with a hull constructed from stout teak planking on a strong iron frame, this highly significant vessel forms part of the UK’s core national collection of historic ships.

This year is the 40th celebration of the creation of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. It was 40 years ago that the Dockyard closed and this award winning, independent charity established to protect the 80-acres of the most historic parts of the working dockyard, home to one of the largest concentrations of scheduled ancient monuments.



The Dockyard also operates the Call the Midwife Official Location Tour which is the only one of its kind in the world. Whilst the show is set in the East End of London, many of the outside scenes from the BBC series are actually filmed in the Dockyard. Luckily it was a fine day when we were there as there is little or no shelter apart from in the café!

Eileen Lane



People in Profile:

Lynda Shore

Lynda is our current Treasurer at KMC and has been since 2013. Managing the finances has been difficult, particularly in the last few years with declining income due to a variety of reasons.

Lynda has been a member of KMC since 1977 when she and her late husband moved to Woking from Edinburgh.

Scotland was in fact where Lynda was born. In Aberdeen to be precise which is where her grandparents lived at that time. Her parents actually lived in Stoke-on-Trent and is where Lynda grew up, attending primary school and then a girls' grammar school.

Prior to attending Manchester University, Lynda took the position of student teacher at an infant school for two terms which gave her an income and kept her busy. She did not particularly enjoy the experience and at the time had no particular thoughts about teaching as a career.

Lynda thoroughly enjoyed her 3 years at Manchester University where she studied maths. It was during this period that she met Phil and they got married soon after they had both graduated.

The move from Manchester to Edinburgh was due to Phil taking up employment with Standard Life and studying to become an actuary. In the meantime, Lynda took a job in the housing department at Edinburgh City Council, but this was only until Phil passed his exams. When this had been achieved three years later, he was recruited by a London insurance company, hence the move to Woking where they settled into their new home in Brookwood.

Lynda secured a position teaching basic maths to mostly immigrant students at Adult Education classes and later taught GCSE maths at an evening class. During this period, in the early 1980s, their first daughter Jenyfer was born with Rachel completing the family in 1984.

Very sadly Phil passed away in 1988 following an accident and this was a very difficult time for the family. A decision to move house had already been made before Phil's untimely passing, although a property had not been found. However, Lynda continued with this plan and moved to a new home in St John's in 1989 where she still lives to this day.

By this time Lynda was teaching maths on a part-time basis at St John the Baptist School, a job which continued until 1999 when Lynda moved schools and started teaching at Notre Dame School in Cobham. Lynda officially retired in



2013 but stayed teaching children with special needs once a week until 2017. Lynda's association with the Methodist Church began in Stoke-on-Trent. Her mother was a Presbyterian, but there was no church to attend locally so they would go to the Methodist Church instead. When the move to Woking happened, the initial expectation was that they would attend Trinity Methodist Church in Woking. However, living in Brookwood meant, of course, they were nearer to KMC. Soon after joining, Phil became a youth fellowship leader and was involved in the Sunday School.

At the time of arriving at KMC, the then minister Rev Arthur Hoyles asked Lynda if she would take on the role of Treasurer of World Mission for KMC. Later Lynda also took on the same role for the Circuit. Lynda has yet to relinquish either of these roles!

Lynda has a passion for Gilbert & Sullivan musicals and this began when she used to attend amateur productions with her mother. These days Lynda attends the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton on an annual basis, as well as cruising on holidays arranged by the same organisation. In the past these cruises have taken in the Rhine, the Venetian Canals and the Danube and Lynda is already looking forward to the next one!

I guess like many of us, Lynda has a number of favourite hymns, but she finally settled on Charles Wesley's "Love Divine all Loves Excelling" (Blaenwern tune), a hymn which Lynda and Phil chose for their wedding in 1974.

On behalf of us all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynda for all she has done and continues to do for us at KMC.

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*

*Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

*Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*



A Way in a Manger



**A way in a manger, as God became man,
to rescue mankind through His salvation plan.
The star in the night sky was a sign that would say
the King of all kings lay asleep on the hay.**

**The angels were telling Good News of His birth;
to shepherds, abiding, they sang “Peace on Earth.”
I love You, Lord Jesus, for what You have done:
becoming incarnate, ‘through God’s only Son.**

**Be near me, my Saviour: in You I believe.
Through Your life; death; resurrection, new life I receive.
Bless all of God’s children, whom You save by His love,
and raise us t’wards heaven to praise You above.**







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Christingle

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time. The custom of giving out lighted candles at these services began in Germany in 1747 but was not introduced in England until 1968.

Christingles are made up of different parts, each one being there to remind us of what it means:

-  The **orange** represents the world.
-  The **candle** reminds us of Jesus who was the light of the world.
-  The **red ribbon** goes all round the 'world' and being the colour of blood, reminds us that Jesus died.
-  The **four cocktail sticks** could have either of one of two meanings; the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
-  The **sweets** (or sometimes dried fruit) remind us of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.
-  The **foil** is there to catch waxy drips from the candle.

There is no Christingle Service at KMC this year so here is how to make your own Christingle.

You will need: 1 orange, 1 red ribbon (or crepe paper), 4 cocktail sticks, a handful of small sweets or fruit, a little aluminium foil.

Carefully make a hole for the candle in the top of the orange.

Fasten a band of red round the middle of the orange (flame-proof crepe paper may be best to use for this purpose).

Place a square of aluminium foil, about 20cm square, round the bottom of the candle. This acts as a shield and catches the grease/wax.

Put the candle firmly into the hole in the orange, making sure it is kept upright.

Add 4 cocktail sticks on which you can put the sweets or fruit such as raisins or glace cherries.



The Christmas Eve News (Ho! Ho! Ho!)

Good evening.

The police authorities are hopeful that tonight they will finally get to the bottom of their longest standing unsolved mystery - the case of the serial present giver Father Christmas, also known as Santa Claus.

Inspector Hunch of Scotland Yard said that the police have, with the help of an advance computer programme, found a pattern to the break-ins by this intruder and are confident that he will strike again tonight.

Inspector Hunch went on to add that members of the public should not be unduly alarmed by the likelihood of a break-in and stressed that although the strange intruder always leaves gifts, he has never been known to take anything other than the odd mince pie and a tippie from the drinks cabinet.

To assist the police with this investigation in shopping centres all over the country, reconstructions have been staged with the help of Father Christmas look-a-likes performing the act of giving. It is hoped that these reconstructions might jog the memories of members of the public with any information which might help unmask the mystery giver.

Father Christmas is described as tallish, heavily bearded and athletic though overweight. He is said to dress in a red suit and matching bobble hat. The police advise members of the public who witness Father Christmas in the act of leaving presents in their bedrooms, to pretend to be asleep but urged them to phone Scotland Yard as soon as the intruder has left the scene of the generosity.

Good night.



**WANTED:
CALL POLICE IF SEEN.. HO HO HO!**

The Importance of “Chat”

Something that I have come to realise is that “chat” is very important especially for people who live alone. I spend a certain amount of time at Dramatize (previously the Vyne) with a number of people just chatting on two days a week. Also, a small group of people meet for an hour each Friday at my house for the same purpose.

This chatting time is quite invaluable to our well-being so if you know of anyone who is alone, try to spend a short time with them each week, if they would appreciate some company.

Eileen Lane

The Silver Line

As Eileen says, having conversations with others is essential and as often as possible whether that is face-to-face or on the telephone. However, at Christmas in particular, when people traditionally get together, there are those who do not necessarily have family or even friends to talk to and so may be alone over the festive period. Some might prefer it that way, others may not. For anybody who does live on their own and when family or friends may not be available to meet or speak with, may I recommend the Age UK service “The Silver Line”.

This Helpline service, which is just for older people, was started by Dame Esther Rantzen in 2011 when she was having feelings of deep loneliness.

It operates 24 hours a day every day of the week and its aims are to:

offer friendship, conversation and connection to older people and help ease feelings of loneliness and social or physical isolation;

provide a 24-hour helpline to older people seeking practical information or guidance on issues that are affecting them;

empower older people experiencing neglect or abuse to access the right protection and, if appropriate, connect them with specialist services who can help;

be ready to pick up the phone to the people who need help at any hour of the day and night.

Their free telephone number is 0800 4708090 - 24hrs 7days a week.

To read more about this vital service they have a website and the address is:

www.thesilverhelpline.org.uk

Warm Welcome Venues

Another way of having conversations with others is by visiting a Warm Welcome Venue. These are venues run by Surrey County Council with partners across the county. In addition to enjoying social interaction, residents can access a venue for a free hot drink and other support services between November 2024 and March 2025.



A Warm Welcome space is a physical space run by a community group, charity, organisation or business where people can go to:

Warm up

Get a hot drink for free, get energy advice and debt support and enjoy some social interaction.

Some venues, benefit from additional services such as free meals and activities.

In Woking the venues available are:

Christ Church, Jubilee Square.

Opening times: Wednesday 3.45pm – 6pm

For hot drinks, meals, social activities, Food bank/Food Club/Community Fridge

Accessibility: 100% accessible. They use the café space at Christ Church.

Knaphill Baptist Church, 88 High Street, Knaphill.

Opening times: Monday 2pm – 4pm, Friday 10am – 12pm

For hot drinks, social activities, craft activities.

Accessibility: Disabled facilities all present.

St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park Centre, Denton Way, Woking.

Opening times: Tuesday (& Wednesday in school holidays) 9am – 12pm

Wednesday & Thursday (term time) 10am – 2.30pm

Accessibility: automatic doors and disabled toilets. Community café space located on the ground floor of the building, with a lift should access to the first floor be required for other activities.

Knaphill Library, 4 Anchor Crescent, Knaphill

Opening times: Monday 1pm – 5pm; Tuesday 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm

Wednesday closed. Thursday 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm

Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm Saturday 9.30am – 4pm Sunday closed.

For warm space, hot and cold drinks, events & activities.

Accessibility: the library has automatic doors and a hearing loop installed. There is also a disabled toilet.

Woking United Reform Church (Community Venue)

White Rose Lane, Woking.

Opening times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm

For hot drinks, small snacks; social activities.

Accessibility: on site parking, disabled ramps and disabled toilets.

The Lighthouse, 8 – 10 High Street, Woking GU21 6BG

Opening times: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm

For hot drinks, meals, social activities, craft activities, Food bank/Food club/Community Fridge.

Accessibility: ground floor access.

News from the Garden Gnome

Fur, Feathers & Flowers (but not necessarily in that order!)

Well, here we are again folks at the end of another gardening year and all that remains to do is the clearing up.

Autumn was glorious this year and lasted well into November. Now the trees have made a massive dump of leaves all at once so it's a daily task to sweep the paths and keep them clear – you know... elf & safety and all that!

So, as we say good night to the trees as they settle for their winter sleep, we commence the clearing up after Storm Bert. We lost a few panes of glass in the greenhouses but overall, we count ourselves fortunate as many were flooded.

The growing season got off to a slow start. Most of our vegetables required a second sowing, whilst in the meantime a kind friend gave us some bean plants which helped to get us started – the shame of it. Next year I am calling in the Morris dancers!

However, the flowers this year were magnificent, providing colour and fragrance all around the patio. We placed pots on top of our old BBQ and with a small table beside it created a waterfall effect of colour. We hung many small baskets of fuchsias along the top pole of the bean sticks so wherever we sat we could enjoy their beauty.

The end of the garden is guarded by two wonderful oak trees which have stood on sentry duty for many years and are all that remains of Inkerman Woods. They provide home and a playground to much of the wildlife especially the squirrels who are a joy to watch and many species of birds. We can claim the fattest pigeons in Knaphill as they are treated to a full English breakfast every morning consisting of bird seed and fat balls! They line up like soldiers on the garage roof waiting to be served. We hide bird feeders in the mahonia bush and hedges for the small birds so that they do not miss out on a free meal and to encourage them to stay.

My favourites however are the foxes which claim squatters' rights as there has been an established fox run here for centuries. I love to stand at the gate and watch them. They also love to play and can be delightfully naughty. This is because sometimes they pay me a visit by coming up to the patio and looking in through the window. I often wonder if they want to watch the football on the television. On one occasion they ran off with my gardening shoes which were on the backdoor step. By the time I was able to retrieve them there wasn't much left to wear!

I feel very privileged to have a garden so rich in wildlife. We are all called to be custodians of the earth and to leave it safe for the next generation with a place for all of us in it. I am happy to do my part in caring for some of God's creatures even in a small way.

Let's hope the winter is not too severe and don't forget to ask Father Christmas for bird feeders!

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and an exciting new gardening year.

Love and God bless.

Christine (aka your Garden Gnome)



Christmas Colouring page





Christmas

WORD SEARCH

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

SILENT NIGHT
 MIRACLE
 SAVIOUR
 THREE KINGS
 GOLD
 NATIVITY
 ANGELS
 STAR

REJOICE
 FAITH
 BABY JESUS
 SHEPHERD
 HEROD
 STABLE
 MYRRH
 BETHLEHEM

INN
 MARY
 JOSEPH
 MANGER
 SHEEP
 FRANKINCENSE
 CAMEL
 CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas

Goodwill to Men - Christmas Greetings in 6 Languages

At Christmas, when old friends are meeting,
We give that long-loved joyous greeting –
“Merry Christmas!”

While hanging sheaves for winter birds
Friends in Norway call the words,
“God Jul!”

With wooden shoes ranged on the hearth,
Dutch celebrators cry their mirth,
“Vrolyk Kerstfeest!”

In France, that land of courtesy,
our welcome to our guests would be,
“Joyeux Noel!”

Enshrining Christmas in her art,
Italy cries from a full heart,
“Buon Natale!”

When in the land of Christmas trees,
Old Germany, use words like these –
“Frohliche Weihnachten!”

Though each land names a different name,
Goodwill rings through each wish the same –
“Merry Christmas!”

Dorothy Brown Thompson

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey. GU21 2DR
The Minister with Pastoral Charge for our church is Rev. Dr. Paul Glass.
Paul can be contacted via the Circuit Office on 01483 537655
or by email: minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

SUNDAY SERVICE : 10am - Morning Worship *(includes facilities for children)*

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our Worship Group.

The sermons are Bible based and are sometimes themed over several weeks. Holy Communion is generally on the 2nd Sunday of every month. After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments; a time for a chat and to get to know each other.

We have a special Family Area at the back of the church with things for children to do. For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact:
admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

This is a QR code - scan it with your smartphone to go straight to our website



www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk

A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The KMC Magazine has a wider readership than just within KMC because it is published on the KMC and Circuit websites as we want to be able to share it with the other Churches. However, we recognise some contributors may be uncomfortable with being mentioned, particularly on the internet. I will therefore be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

Editor editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk





Services @ KMC

8th December	10am	Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd
15th December	10am	Morning Worship with Holly White
22nd December	10am	Morning Worship with Hetti Lalleman
	6pm	Carols by Candlelight
29th December	10.30am	Circuit Service at <i>Trinity Woking</i>
5th January	10am	Morning Worship with Hetti Lalleman
12th January	10am	Morning Worship with Paul Glass
19th January	10am	Morning Worship with Pieter Lalleman
26th January	10am	Holy Communion with Allan Taylor
2nd February	10am	Morning Worship with Janet England
9th February	10am	Morning Worship
16th February	10am	Holy Communion with Paul Glass
23rd February	10am	Morning Worship with Jane Briggs

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON BUTTIES

BOOKS, DVDs,
JIGSAWS, CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL
4th Saturday every month (except December)
10am to Noon

WWW.KNAPHILLMETHODIST.CO.UK
MINISTER@KNAPHILLMETHODIST.CO.UK