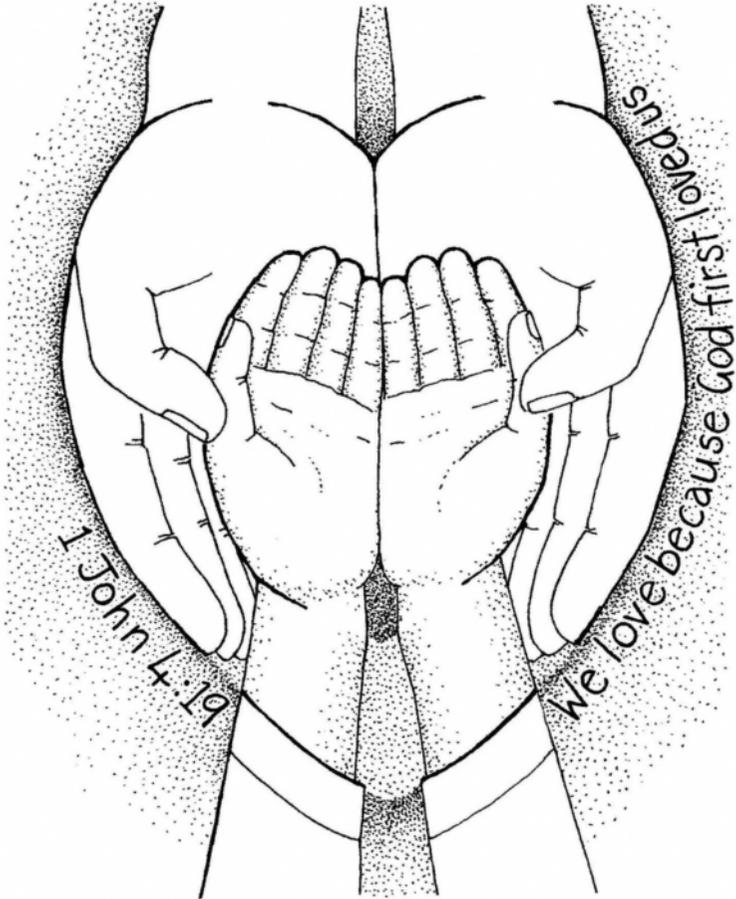




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



February 2014

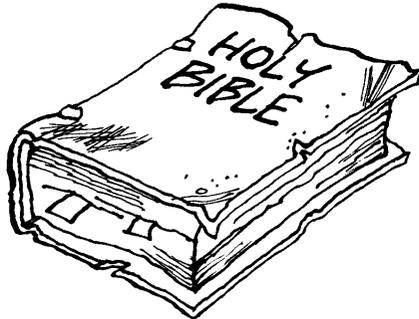


SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

- 2 Feb 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe,
Holy Communion
pm Winter Bible Study - *(details to be announced)*
- 9 Feb 10.30 Rev Keith Riglin, Family/Parade Service
pm Winter Bible Study - *(details to be announced)*
- 16 Feb 10.30 Local Arrangement
pm Winter Bible Study - *(details to be announced)*
- 23 Feb 10.30 Local Arrangement
pm Winter Bible Study - *(details to be announced)*



Our Minister says:
"Bibles which are falling apart are
read by people who aren't."



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGH THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published by Monarch

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2014 issue is Friday 22nd February 2014

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



Dear Friends,

As we journey through 2014 I'm sure we all have our own hopes and plans, and possibly some fears over what lies ahead. Some may be realized, others may not. The unexpected may happen and bring us sorrow or joy. The expected may happen in ways we do not anticipate. The truth and joy of the Christian faith is the knowledge that in the midst of everything God is with us.

As we enter into a new year, having made our Covenant with God where is our focus? What will we value the most? Where will we spend our time and energy? What will we forget? And what will we remember? What will motivate us this year? Our family... our personal ambitions... our relationship with God... our desire for social justice... growth in God's kingdom... ?

Church historian and theologian, Jaroslav Pelikan says,

'Tradition is the living faith of dead people to which we must add our chapter while we have the gift of life... Traditionalism is the dead faith of living people who fear that if anything changes then the whole enterprise will crumble'.

The Methodist movement began as a reaction against many Christians who were interested in maintaining the status quo, of following traditionalism, even if it may mean a joyless faith, an empty church, a hopeless world.

As we travel through a new year may we seek after God's own heart. The tradition of Methodism means we are called to add our chapter as we look at all times and in all places to share the Good News of Christ who declared **"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."**

Love and prayers for 2014,

Chrissie



KINGSDOWN FAMILY NEWS

At the Morning Service at Kingsdown on 8 December 2013, the baptism took place of **Aidan Christopher Potter**, born 15 November 2012, the son of **Alison** and **Steve Potter**, watched by his brother **Benjamin**, and grandparents **Liz** and **Steve Palmer**.

It's good to see Violet Cordon back with us again after a long and bumpy road to recovery following her operation.

Pearl Pike also seems to be slowly recovering from a serious fall some time before Christmas.

Kathleen Loveridge has had a successful operation on her knee and we look forward to seeing her and Peter back with us very soon.

Jill Ward has been rather poorly recently but has still managed to send us an article concerning the Babies & Toddlers Group (please do read it on page 8).

We send sincere good wishes for all those who are unwell and unable to be with us at this time, and ask that you remember them in your prayers.

A pleasant surprise was sprung on everyone after the Morning Service on Sunday 5 January, when **Julie Mgbado** brought a cake for all to share celebrating the start of 2014. Many thanks Julie for your kind thought.

Your editors would like to express their thanks to all those who help us with producing and distributing The Messenger; and particular thanks to those who contribute articles - we couldn't do it without you. If you have any ideas for future input (recipe's, sale or wanted, etc) please let us know at magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk, or call us on 020 8840 4803.

BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 10.00 - 12.30

IN AID OF JMA AND MWIB



Church Flowers

We are missing Ivy Hanson who has gone to Jamaica and will be away for almost 3 months. In her absence we particularly miss her skilful weekly flower arrangements.

Do we have any one else able to take up the challenge in her absence? Any contributions of flowers over the next few weeks will be most welcome, if only to just arrange in vases.

A list will be put up on the Church Foyer notice board for anyone willing to add their name to a particular date, so that each week may hopefully be covered in some way. Obviously the flowers would need to be brought to the church and arranged on the Saturday morning.



World Church Sunday

World Church Sunday will be held on February 16th and the guest speaker will be John Cotton, Chairman of the Trustees of the Karibuni Trust, a charity that helps the street and slum children of Kenya. John and his wife hope to bring some Kenyan artefacts, both wood and stone, to sell during the lunch.

There will be a list posted in the foyer for people to contribute items for the lunch, and there will a collection taken at the lunch for the charity.

Olwen Britton for Sybil Corbin

Women's World Day of Prayer



The annual Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at Kingsdown on Friday March 7th from 12.00 and the theme this year is Egypt 'Streams in the Desert'.

I would be grateful for four helpers to take non-speaking parts in the service and also for help with refreshments.

Olwen Britton

**KINGSDOWN CLUB PROGRAMME
FOR
JANUARY to APRIL 2014**

Meetings are held on the first and third tuesday of each month .all are welcome to attend . We meet in the foyer of the church from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Transport is available for anyone who should need it.

Please contact Eileen Tobias [tel. No. 0208 567 4205] for details.

7th JANUARY

PIANO WITH ROB CUNNINGHAM

21st JANUARY

BINGO AND QUIZ AFTERNOON

4th FEBRUARY

THE TALKING NEWSPAPER
A TALK BY *BRIAN WATKINS*

18th FEBRUARY

ENTERTAINMENT
WITH BETTY AND GLADYS

4th MARCH

AN ORPHANAGE IN SRI LANKA
A TALK BY *JUNE THOMPSON*

18th MARCH

DAVE ENTERTAINS

1st APRIL

[HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN]
WITH THE REMINISCENCE ROADSHOW

15th APRIL

A.G.M AND BINGO
AND QUIZ AFTERNOON

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS 6TH MAY

MURDER MYSTERY
DEATH IN
VENICE



SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 7.30PM

MAKE SURE YOU ARE THERE

TICKETS SHORTLY ON SALE

WILL INCLUDE SUPPER

KINGSDOWN BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP - NEWSLETTER

On the first Wednesday in March we will be celebrating our 13th birthday. In February 2001 we had a meeting with Barbara Smith (a previous Minister's wife) who wanted to start up a cub for the young mums in the community. So it is all thanks to Barbara that we have the club, which has quite successfully run for the last thirteen years.

This could not be possible without our faithful helpers, who give up their Wednesday afternoons each week. All thanks go to Doreen, Pam, Vera, Gwen (who is also our treasurer), and Rita who runs our tea bar (with a helping hand from Evelyn) - the children know exactly who to go to for their biscuits and fruit juice!

It does not seem possible that we still have close contact with a few of our Mums from our earlier days. Those babies from that time are now in the third year at High School. Many Mums have found lasting friendship.

We have some really lovely Mums, Grandparents and Carers. Our youngest baby to join us was just three days old! Louise, one of our members, has been with us for eight years, and we hope that she will stay with us for another few years with her new arrival due next month.

Jane was with us for at least eight years and still pops in to see us.

We have three parties a year, but the highlight of course is our Christmas party, when Father Christmas arrives. Our dear Ken was our Father Christmas for a number of years, until his health failed him. Then our Alan took over the job very successfully. Thanks go to all those people.

If you would like to pop in to our club any Wednesday afternoon and have tea and biscuits with us, you will be very welcome.

Additions to our team of helpers would also be most welcome.

Jill Ward

(No article about Babies & Toddlers would be complete without referring to the dedication displayed by Jill in her approach to the work of this Group. Thank you Jill for all you do to keep it running so successfully. Ed)





Kingsdown's Charity of the Year 2013/14

A reminder of what WORKAID needs -

carpentry, plumbing, electrical, building, blacksmithing, welding, lathes, motor mechanic tools, manual and electric sewing machines, knitting machines, leather working, upholstery, haberdashery, wools and yarns, sturdy adult bicycles, horticultural tools, typewriters and many other items.

There is a box in the Church Foyer for any further items that you would like to donate. So please continue to look out for items.

Perhaps you could widen the search for unwanted tools by asking family, friends and neighbours to see if they can find any.

For further information or if you require bulky items collected, please contact us on 0208 567 2668

Steve and Liz Palmer

THE METHODIST WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

Are you free for lunch once a month from October to May? This club meets in London on the 2nd Friday of every month from 12 midday to 2pm at the Lancaster Hall Hotel (35 Craven Terrace, London W2 - near Kensington Gardens). Paddington and Lancaster Gate tube stations are within easy walking distance. It has a variable programme with different Speakers each month and would welcome new members. See leaflet on church foyer notice board for further details.

Charity of the Year 2012/13

Charity of the Year 2012/13 was the Ealing Street Pastors and Kingsdown raised a total of £1038 42p for the charity. I have received a letter from the Co-ordinator thanking the church for their kind donation .



Olwen Britton



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Earlier this week, I received a pack - CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - WELCOME PACK - all the literature, etc for **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 11 TO 17 MAY 2014**. Since we now have new people on the London Unit, there will be changes. So, January 2014, brings a "new look" Welcome Pack.

This year's Christian Aid Week theme is peace and reconciliation. The Bible and the Church have so much to say on this issue, and it's a key part of Christian Aid's work all over the world - from Afghanistan, to Syria, to Zimbabwe. Conflict destroys lives and is a major cause of poverty and destitution. We can be instruments of God's peace, seeking to tackle the causes of conflict, caring for those in the midst of it, and helping people rebuild their lives in the aftermath.

In some of the toughest places in the world, Christian Aid is helping people caught up in conflict to get the basics, such as medical care, water, food, and shelter. We keep people safe and help heal their emotional scars, providing the expert support they need to deal with their traumatic experiences.

When the fighting stops, Christian Aid is still there, helping communities walk the long road to recovery; from building homes where families can feel safe, to making sure people who've lost everything can earn a living again: and work to tackle the causes, not just the consequences, of conflict.

By coming together, we are demonstrating that God's love is infinitely greater than hatred and violence. We can help to give people across the world a life free from fear.

Our DVD this year, entitled FEAR LESS celebrates the work of partners in South Sudan (story narrated by Christian Aid's Chair - Dr Rowan Williams - former Archbishop of Canterbury), Columbia and Iraq. I have handed DVD's to a number of friends at Kingsdown in the past, who have found them very interesting. I shall be ordering a few this year. Again - please let me know if you would like one.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS - 2014 - MAKE LENT COUNT CHRISTIAN AID

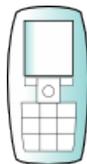
In the Methodist Recorder of 16 January, I found a copy of this leaflet. It was most interesting and inspiring.

Instead of giving up giving up treats, why not make Lent count in a different way with this 'Count your blessings calendar'? Throughout Lent, these forty daily bite-size reflections will inspire you to give thanks for the blessings in your life, and enable you to help change the lives of poor communities around the globe.

I intend to collect a few copies at the Supporters Day on 30 January - would you like one?

Ruby Warne

THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER



Very many thanks for the stamps, socks and specs place in the box the the Church Foyer. All these items, and mobile phones, continue to be needed.



Ruby Warne



“Give me one hundred preachers and worship leaders who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be ordained or lay, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.”

John Wesley

SPRING

Write me a verse or two, you said,
And talk about the Spring.
About the way the birdsong makes
The waking woodland ring.
About the way the leaden skies
Will turn to deepest blue.
But we didn't have a summer
And the winter never goes,
And the cold is playing havoc
With my fingers and my toes.-

But is that a blackbird singing
All his praises for the dawn?
And are they little crocus heads
Now stippling the lawn?
I thought I saw the wild geese
Just go winging overhead
And the cat is purring loudly
Lazing on the window ledge

The sparrows potter round the hedge
And chatter till it's dark
And I hear the sound of happy children
Playing in the park.
The cherry trees are lovely,
With their blossoms pink and white,
And the woods are newly carpeted
With yellow aconite.

So perhaps with all my groaning
That the winter will not go -
And I'm bored with watching tele
And just looking at the snow -
I've missed the signs that tell me
That the winter's fading fast
For the daffodils are blooming now-
And Spring is here at last!

Dorothy Elgar - 2013 Age 91 years

Kingsdown member for many years Ed



THE TRUTH AND LIES ABOUT GLOBAL POVERTY cont

MRDF challenges five myths surrounding global poverty and celebrates the work of partners providing practical solutions for poor communities around the world.

Myth 1: 'They won't help themselves'

Myth 2: 'They are poor because they have too many children'

Myth 3: 'They are all corrupt'

Myth 4: 'Only the poorest countries need aid'

Myth 5: 'The poor will always be with us'

A truth: 'We can all make a difference'

Continuing from the last issue which covered Myths 3 and 4

Myth 5: The poor will always be with us

Jesus' words 'You will always have the poor with you' (John 12:8) are often quoted by those arguing that poverty is inevitable. However, when considered in context, it would seem that Jesus was not making a point here about poverty, but about his own imminent death. In fact, throughout the Bible, and especially in Jesus' words and ministry, we see a concern for serving the poor, challenging injustice and liberating the oppressed – and a desire that all should have 'life in abundance' (John 10:10b).

While inequalities in income mean there is always likely to be relative poverty, with a concerted effort it will be possible to end extreme poverty, measured in terms of a basic level of income and access to primary education, healthcare, maternal health and clean water.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. Since 1990, governments, international organisations, companies and civil society groups working together around the world have helped to cut in half the world's extreme poverty rate. More girls are in school, 17,000 fewer children are dying each day and 2.1 billion people have gained access to clean water.

Learn more by watching film 7.2 from our award-winning Iota course:
<http://www.iotacourse.org/sessions/session-7/>

A truth: We can all make a difference

'Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.' John Wesley

The activities of MRDF's supporters and partners demonstrate that it is possible to make a difference, even to such a large and apparently intractable problem as global poverty.

International award for MRDF partner VAD

In December, one of MRDF's local partner organisations in Uganda, Voluntary Action for Development (VAD), received a prestigious award for its impact.

VAD is a Kampala-based organisation which works with communities across Uganda to provide sustainable sources of safe, clean water as well as developing good hygiene practices. VAD has received the Runner up STARS Foundation Impact Award for Water, Health and Sanitation projects in the Africa-Middle East region.

More than 1,300 local organisations from 60 countries applied for the Impact Awards, which 'recognise and reward outstanding local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to improve the wellbeing and life chances of children in the countries with the highest rates of under-five mortality.'

In a country where nine in every 100 children die before their fifth birthday, this award recognises the vital improvements VAD have made to the lives of people in the communities they serve. In the last year MRDF has helped VAD to provide almost 5,000 people with improved clean and safe water facilities within 1.5km of their home. By 2015, the MRDF project aims to serve 26,300 community members and 3,600 children in 63 underserved villages.



Michael, the School Health Club Chairman for Bussi Primary School, with the new handwashing tank built by VAD

MRDF Programme Manager Andrew Edwards commented: 'It is fantastic news that VAD has won this award and a tribute to the skill and commitment of all its staff, working with local communities to provide clean water and improved sanitation. MRDF has been supporting the work and development of VAD since 2006 and it is wonderful that the organisation has now been identified by the STARS Foundation as one of the top organisations working in this sector.'

As a result of the prize, VAD will receive \$50,000 of unrestricted funding and \$20,000 in tailored consultancy and media training. This prize will help VAD to develop further as an organisation and achieve its long term goals. As a large percentage of the money is unrestricted, the organisation can use the funds in the most effective way to meet their needs.

YOU can support VAD through MRDF.

CARE BILL - CLAUSE 118

The Care Bill returned to the House of Commons two weeks ago and is in Committee stage now. Help stop the 'Hospital Closure Clause' – **clause 118**.

It is expected there will be an opportunity for MPs to vote against Clause 118 at Report stage in February. So the next few weeks will be critical for lobbying MPs to oppose this clause.

Just to recap on why this is so important:

If clause 118 goes through then an administrator can recommend and the Secretary of State can enact the closure or downgrading of any other hospital that just happens to be anywhere near a 'failing' trust. There will be no real local consultation and the wishes of local clinicians can be ignored. As the case of Lewisham shows, this is a recipe for bad policy making – rushed, badly informed decisions that don't take proper account of local healthcare needs or clinical evidence and don't stack up financially.

What you can do:

1. Write to your MP asking them to strongly oppose the hospital closure clause (118) in parliament and get it removed from the Care Bill. Go to <http://bit.ly/1awmDm2> for suggested letter but please personalise it to your local circumstances. This is especially important if you have a Lib Dem or Conservative MP. You can find your MPs contact details on: <http://www.writetothem.com/>
2. Can you spare another 5 minutes to write to your local newspaper? MPs worry a lot about what's in their local paper. Suggested letter at: <http://bit.ly/1doTeg1>.
3. Join the protest against Clause 118 in central London on 5 February. Details on this website: www.savelewishamhospital.com
4. Are you a healthcare professional? Please sign a letter co-ordinated by campaigner Dr David Wrigley on www.surveymonkey.com/s/Clause118.
5. Help boost the petition here on the 38 Degrees website. It already has over 140,000 signatures.

For more information see <http://www.opendemocracy.net/ournhs/caroline-molloy/no-hospital-will-be-safe-from-clause-118> on OurNHS openDemocracy.

Thank you! Let's show the government that people won't take attacks on the NHS lying down.

AN ATHEIST IN THE WOODS

An atheist was walking through the woods.

'What majestic trees!

'What powerful rivers!

'What beautiful animals!

He said to himself. Suddenly, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him.

He turned to look . . . and saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him.

He ran as fast as he could along the path.

He looked over his shoulder
and saw that the bear was closing on him

He looked over his shoulder again,

and the bear was even closer

.... and then he tripped and fell.

Rolling over to pick himself up, he found the bear was right on top of him

reaching towards him with its left paw ...

and raising the right paw to strike ...

At that instant the Atheist cried out,

'Oh my God!'

Time Stopped

The bear froze

The forest was silent

A bright light shone upon the man,

and a voice came out of the sky ...

"You deny my existence for all these years,

you teach others I don't exist

and even credit creation to a cosmic accident

Do you expect me to help you

out of this predicament?"

"Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light
"It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a
Christian now ...
but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?"

... a pause ...

"Very well," said the voice ...
The light went out.
The sounds of the forest resumed

And the bear dropped his right arm
brought both paws together
bowed his head & spoke ...

"Lord, bless this food, which I am about to receive



Submitted by Janet Smith



The following signs were displayed outside Churches in America.

- : can't sleep, try counting your blessings
- : the best vitamin for a Christian is B1
- : you are not too bad to come in....you are not too good to stay out
- : keep using my name in vain, I will make rush hour longer
- : there are some questions that cannot be answered by Google
- : honk if you love Jesus. text while driving, if you want to meet him
- : aspire to inspire before you expire
- : read the Bible, it is user friendly, plus we offer technical support here Sundays at 10.30 a.m.
- : car parking trespassers will be baptised
- : Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.
- : under the same management for over 2,000 years

Janet Smith

Fair Trade Fortnight goes bananas....



Fair Trade Fortnight this year (24 Feb – 9 Mar) will see the launch of a new campaign to increase the sales of Fair Trade bananas. Although more than 1.2 billion Fairtrade bananas are now sold in the UK each year, that is still only one in three of the bananas sold.

So '**Abolish the Unfair Banana**' aims to carry on transforming the banana industry, in order to ensure that those at the sharp end of the supply chain – the millions of struggling banana farmers – get a fair deal. The campaign is the next part of Fair Trade's three year initiative to Make Food Fair.

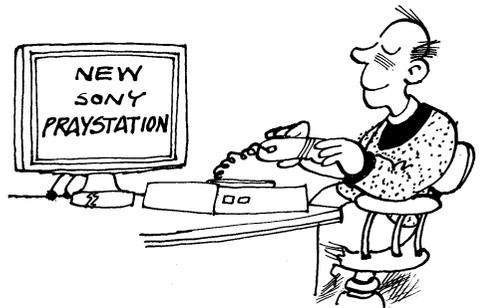
ALWAYS LOOK for the FAIRTRADE LOGO WHEN SHOPPING

The Way I See It : Surfing the Web - 22 years after it first began

I suppose all of us, even if reluctantly, are familiar with the strange code 'www' - the prelude to a domain name for the internet. Tap it in, and at once you are somewhere else - a shop, a charity, a government organisation, a vet or a dancing school. I don't suppose anyone knows how many of those strange 'www' names there are, but I think we'd be in the realms of Abraham's 'stars in the sky' or 'grains of sand on the sea-shore'. people choose to shop online (or to cheat a bit, see it in the shop, and then go online to buy it at a discount!). It is a source of facts and information, from train times to the names of medieval monarchs. In one sense we are drowning in a sea of information, all there at our fingertips (literally) but daunting in its volume. "No", we sometimes feel like screaming, "I don't want to 'go to our web-site', I just want to talk to a human being."

The letters stand, of course, for 'world wide web', and this month is the 22nd anniversary of its birth, the brain-child of a British computer expert, Tim Berners-Lee. It may seem to have been around forever, but in fact it's a mere whippersnapper. The next time you fume at the endless advice on the phone to 'go to our web-site', think of Mr Berners-Lee and you'll know who to blame!

In fact, the world wide web is now an inescapable part of life for most people all over the world, and even those who aren't on the internet are aware how dependent so much of modern life is on its working. Via the keys on an ordinary computer, or even the buttons on a Smart-phone, people can have access to an unlimited source of information, advice and resources. Increasingly



14th February

Saint Valentine's Day

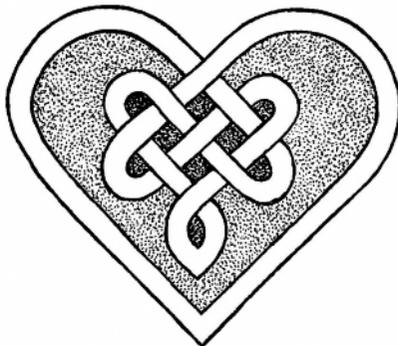
Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

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

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

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784).

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.



Protecting our children

The UK Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) has produced a booklet 'Safeguarding in a Digital World' which contains over 100 links to various websites and other documents.

Safeguarding in a Digital World

'Interactive E-Safety Resource'

(produced by CCPAS and Compassion Productions Ltd)

This resource is designed to support faith communities in safeguarding children in all aspects of e-safety (electronic communications)

This resource is available in two different formats: DVD and USB the advantage of the USB being that it can be easily used in most portable devices.

Included in the pack are:

- Video recording of the CCPAS Internet Safety Conference
- The 'Safeguarding in a Digital World' booklet
- An interactive PDF document with embedded links to web resources and video of the speakers presentations
- PowerPoint presentations from the conference
- Key CCPAS documents including internet safety Quick Reference Guides
- Accompanying booklet for Interactive E-Safety Resource

This printed booklet has been colour-coded into chapters for easier use and contains information on various web sites and other documents - designed to be used with the DVD and USB above.

A copy of this comes free with both the DVD and USB format but is available to buy separately.

The USB costs £16.50

The DVD costs £13.00

The Booklet costs £ 4.00

**All from CCPAS 0845 120 45 50 or
<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/shop2012/CCPASResources.html>**

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS:



Part 1 of 12 : Tensions in Europe

On July 28th 1914 the continent of Europe was at peace, though riven with tensions between the great powers (Germany, Russia, France, Austria-Hungary and Britain). That Sunday morning, however, a sniper, probably a Serbian activist, shot and killed the Archduke Ferdinand of Bosnia-Herzegovina outside Sarajevo railway station.

For a month Europe held its breath as diplomats and politicians from the major nations went into crisis mode. Those involved mostly knew each other - in fact, several were related. Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, after all, was a grandson of Queen Victoria! Yet long-standing feuds in the Balkans, fierce nationalism, new 'Ententes' between some of the powers, swollen arsenals of weapons and - perhaps most of all - fear of one another paralysed their approach. July passed, and with it the hope of peace.

No one knew, of course, what dark and appalling forces they were about to unleash, but on August 4th the most terrible war of European history erupted. Not surprisingly it has become known simply as the

'Great War'. By the time it ended four years later it had involved 65 million troops, brought about the deaths of twenty million soldiers and civilians, and injured another 21 million people.

It's a truism to say that it changed history, but a glance at any war memorial in Britain is a constant reminder of its cruel cost in human terms. Many villages lost almost all their young men. Families were decimated, children lost fathers, women lost their boy friends. Those who lived through it - my parents' generation - would never forget its consequences.

Throughout this year the story of that dreadful conflict will be re-told as we mark the centenary of its outbreak. It's surely pointless, so long after the event, to attempt to apportion blame. Thoughts of military conflict between the nation-states involved seem remote and ridiculous today. Yet whatever its immediate trigger, that War, and its strange child, the Second World War, have shaped the modern world.

It must all seem a long while ago now to schoolchildren studying it as

THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

history, but for many of us older people it was a conflict that involved our parents or grandparents, and changed their lives for ever. My father enlisted in 1914. He and millions like him had been told they were fighting 'the war to end all wars'. Sadly, it wasn't.

Part 2 of 12 The Great War: GALLANT LITTLE BELGIUM

The posters were everywhere. Lord Kitchener, eyes blazing and finger pointing imperiously, proclaimed 'Your country needs YOU!' And up and down the land during those first anxious months of the Great War young men, often urged on by families and girl friends, responded by lining up at recruitment offices in order to enlist in the Army. Those who didn't, for whatever reason, were in danger of receiving a white feather in an anonymous envelope, the badge of cowardice.

Most, like my own father, needed no such urging. For him, as he would explain to the end of his life, the war was a moral duty in defence of 'gallant little Belgium', which had been invaded by the German army on its way, it hoped, to northern France.

Britain was bound by its treaty obligations - the famous Entente Cordiale - to share in the defence of France, so (as my father and millions

of others saw it) there was a solemn duty to keep our promises.

That is not, of course, necessarily the way history sees things, but I am sure that most of those young men who queued up to volunteer did it for one of two reasons, or, more probably, both of them: patriotism and public pressure. Crowds cheered the young recruits as they marched off to training camps. It would, everyone confidently asserted, 'all be over by Christmas'.

Defeat was unthinkable. These young men - many of them barely fit, through poor diet or unhealthy backgrounds - would face up to the Kaiser's hordes and crush them. At that point, the country was not an unwilling participant in war, but totally committed to it.

In the event, the euphoria didn't last long - indeed, barely as far as Christmas. The German army, well-drilled and equipped, simply barged its way across Belgium. There were bloody battles at Ypres and Mons, but it was the Germans who did the crushing and the Allies - British and French - who did the retreating.

However hard they fought, at each point where the generals drew a line and said 'no further', the German army simply paused for breath and then swept on. Casualties on both sides were high, and slowly the truth

began to filter into the public consciousness at home. This war would not be short; it would not be easily won; and it would be desperately costly.

By David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

PENTECOST 2014



Pentecost Festival London was launched in 2008. Over five consecutive years, 100s of events drew 10s of thousands of people to central London to discover the meaning of Pentecost.

The events took place in coffee shops, parks, theatres and nightclubs, as well as iconic venues such as Leicester Square, the O2 Arena, Marble Arch and even a boat on the Thames.

In 2013 the festival went national and under the tagline “The Biggest Birthday Party Ever” across 23 London boroughs and five other regions across the UK.

Pentecost has long been the forgotten Christian festival but we think its time we re-discovered the celebration of Pentecost, and over the next few years we want to see it celebrated across this nation! To make a bigger splash, we believe it is important to connect 100s of churches in working under one banner.

“Help us rediscover Pentecost in 2014 with 100s of parties across the UK celebrating the Church’s birthday with those that may never normally enter our buildings”

Andy Frost, Pentecost Festival Director

Read further details in the pamphlets displayed in the Church Foyer.

Our Page

St BERNADETTE

In February 1858 Bernadette was 14 years old and lived with her family in the little town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees in France. While she was out collecting wood to keep the family warm Bernadette had a vision of St Mary, the Mother of Christ. The lady in blue and white appeared 18 times in all and asked Bernadette to tell the priests to make a procession to the grotto where she appeared and to build a chapel there. At first the priests didn't believe Bernadette's story because she was only a poor, uneducated girl.

People who were ill came to bathe in the spring of water that appeared at the Grotto and in time a large church was built. And still today pilgrims from all over the world visit the shrine.

What happened to Bernadette? She became a nun. When they asked her if she was sad that the visions had ended she answered: 'I was like a broom. When the sweeping is finished you put it behind the door and forget about it.'

WATER WORDS

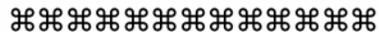
All the answers to this Bible Quiz are to do with water. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where the disciples fished (Mark 1).
2. It parted to allow Moses and the Israelites through (Exodus 14).
3. Jacob met his future wife here (Genesis 29).
4. Paul was on his way to Rome when this happened (Acts 27).
5. How Jonah travelled when the sailors threw him overboard (Jonah 1).
6. The river in which Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3).



Why was Moses hidden quickly?
It was a rush job.

What do you call small rivers that flow into the Nile?
Juveniles.



1. Sea of Galilee
2. The Red Sea
3. at a well
4. he was shipwrecked
5. in a large fish or whale
6. River Jordan

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

FEBRUARY

- Mon 3 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 4 2 pm Kingsdown Club - The Talking Newspaper - a talk by Bryan Watkins
- Wed 5 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (Term time only)
7.00 pm Youth Group
- Fri 7 10.15 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - Everyone welcome
BOYS BRIGADE 6.30-7.30 pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm Junior Section, 7.30-10.00 pm Company Section (most Fridays throughout month)
- Sat 8 10.30 am Book Fair with stalls in aid of JMA and MWIB.
Admission 40p
- Tue 11 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 18 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Entertainment with Betty and Gladys
- Thu 20 8 pm Circuit Policy Meeting at Kingsdown
- Wed 26 2 pm & 8 pm Living and Dying Well series at Ealing Green
Deacon Denise Creed from Central Hall, Westminster

MARCH

- Sat 8 7.30 pm Murder Mystery Evening - 'Death in Venice'
Tickets to include supper.
- Thu 27 Kingsdown Church Council



The views expressed in articles in The Messenger are not necessarily those of Kingsdown Methodist Church or the Editors.

Data Protection - Kingsdown Methodist Church maintains a database of basic information relating to members and the community roll. Keep the Minister informed of any changes to your personal details. The database is maintained in accordance with the guidelines of The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ to whom any formal requests for access to the data must be addressed.

All Copyright material reproduced in The Messenger under CCL Licence 834574