



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



***Lord, the
Light of
Your Love
is shining***

May 2014



SERVICES FOR MAY

- 4 May 10.30 Dr Anita Oji, Christian Aid
5.00-6.30 pm Refresher & Membership Study
- 11 May 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith, Family/Parade Service
5.00-6.30 pm Refresher & Membership Study
- 18 May 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe, Holy Communion
Annual General Church Meeting
6.30 CIRCUIT SERVICE at Wesley's Chapel
- 25 May 10.30 Mrs Charmaine Dinham
5.00-6.30 pm Refresher & Membership Study



This year's Annual General Church Meeting

Sunday 18th May after the morning service.

The meeting is open to everyone who attends Kingsdown, so please put the date in your diaries.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

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Dear Friends,

I write a few days after the glorious event of Easter Sunday.

A day when we celebrate that Christ is risen! A day when we watch and listen as the disciples go through a whole range of emotion from devastation and despair, through bewilderment and wonder, to disbelief and finally proclamation that the very events prophesied in Scripture have indeed been fulfilled by our amazing God through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I wonder how many of those emotions we too have felt over these past days and weeks, not only as we have journeyed through Lent and Easter Week, but in our own lives? This month we will celebrate Ascension Day 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead at Easter, when the risen Christ, in the sight of his disciples, ascends into heaven.

After Jesus' Ascension we look forward to the fulfilment of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. So we journey through the Easter Season towards these events in the knowledge that Christ is with us, calling us ever onwards into a deepening relationship with God and sharing the Good News of the risen Christ with those we meet.

Later this month we will hold our General Church Meeting, an opportunity to thank people for the service they have offered to God over this past Connexional Year and electing members to hold office for the new Connexional Year.

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve God in and through Kingsdown Methodist Church from September 2014.

Easter blessings

Chrissie



KINGSDOWN FAMILY NEWS

Your continued prayers are asked for Peter Loveridge and Kathleen, Geoff Clarke and Christine, and the Rev Roger Dunlop, besides any other members of our church family who are suffering ill health at this time.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Esmilda Porteous and family following the death of her daughter Donnette after a period of illness. The funeral took place on Thursday, 17 April, at Mortlake Crematorium.

Deepest sympathy also to Jill Richardson and family following the death of her husband George on Sunday, 20 April. The funeral service will be at Kingsdown Church on Wednesday, 7 May, at 10.30 am, conducted by the Rev Chrissie Howe.

A big 'welcome home' to Ivy Hanson who has returned after an extended visit to Jamaica.

Always be yourself, because the people that matter don't mind and those who mind, don't matter.

Good Friday Walk of Witness



Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR



Books



Cakes



Plants

Gifts

Bric-a-Brac

Traidcraft

Saturday 10th May

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

All proceeds to:



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2014
THEME - PEACE AND RECONCILIATION



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 2014 will soon be here!

As usual, I need more collectors for House-to-house collecting - 12-17 May, and Flag Day on 17 May.

I don't want to 'drop' roads, but without extra support this will be inevitable. House-to-house collecting isn't easy but why not give it a try?!

More collectors are needed for Flag Day on 17 May in Northfield Avenue and West Ealing (mainly pm). Standing with a tin for just ONE hour - NOT asking for money, NOT rattling your tin (tin-rattling is out!) - just smiling at the people around isn't difficult and can be most enjoyable.

Our Christian Aid Service will be held on Sunday, 4 May, led by Dr Anita Oji.

Our Book Fair will be held on Saturday, 10 May - you will find a poster in this edition of the Messenger.

Please don't forget to sponsor Anna Church for the 'Circle the City' Walk on 18 May.

Thank you for all your support.

Ruby Warne

DRC: Christian Aid responds to 400,000 displaced in 'triangle of death'

Christian Aid has warned the situation in the southern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) province of Katanga is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis. Fighting between government troops and Mai Mai and Bakata Katanga rebels has displaced more than 400,000 people, according to UN officials.

Over the past six months more than 60 villages have been burnt to the ground in the northern Katanga territories of Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto,

dubbed the 'triangle of death'. Christian Aid partners have recorded a 50 per cent increase in internally displaced people (IDPs) in Pweto territory alone in the last three months, from 59,000 to almost 128,000.

Malnutrition is rife, security is almost non-existent and living conditions are deteriorating daily. Christian Aid partners, the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Congo (EELCO) and the Consortium of Economists of the Civil Society in Katanga (CEC), are providing 1,000 families with temporary shelter, clothing, blankets, cooking utensils, soap and hygiene kits.

The people flee with only the clothes on their backs, and children under 14 make up over a third of the displaced population. Malaria, diarrhoea and cholera pose huge health threats.

Kingsdown AwayDay

On Saturday 5th April, around 25 of us went to the Royal Foundation of St Katharine in Limehouse for a church 'AwayDay'. The idea behind the AwayDay was to give us a chance to consider 'where we are' as a church, our recent past and to begin thinking about how we should see our future.

We've certainly been through some challenging times in recent years! The redevelopment project, which lasted a good 10 years in all, absorbed an awful lot of our attention, time, effort and fundraising, and the more recent changes in ministers have been disorientating. Now that the redevelopment project is behind us and we have a new minister arriving in September, the time was opportune to start thinking about 'where we are' as a church, and 'where we go from here'.

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine was a wonderful venue. Despite being in the busy area of Limehouse, it felt tranquil and peaceful and provided a good atmosphere in which to reflect. Because the Foundation provided everything for us, we could all join in right throughout the day. The food incidentally, was excellent.

Wendy Beard, who is Regional Training and Development Officer did a wonderful job in guiding and facilitating our discussions. We started by considering our recent past looking at both the positives ('ladders') and the negatives ('snakes').

Some things figured as both – the redevelopment for one. Whilst it came almost to dominate our church life, we now have a much better building.

If anything, being able to have after-service coffee in the church foyer has probably brought us closer together as more of us now stay than was the case when we used the hall.



We then did the first round of the 'angel' exercise. We each chose a picture of an angel to symbolise how we felt about the past. We then talked about why we'd each chosen our particular angel in small groups of three and as a full group. Finally, Wendy encouraged us to put all those things into the past and leave them behind. Although we'd written all of our 'snakes' and 'ladders' on pieces of paper, Wendy took away the 'snakes' so we can no longer refer to them, because, as she said, "They're all in the past – you don't need those now."

After lunch we continued with the 'angel' exercise, this time choosing pictures of angels to symbolise how we felt about the future of our church. We started discussing in groups of three, each explaining why we'd chosen our particular angels. Each group then chose one of those angels. Doing this also meant we had to let go of some images about the future in favour of others.

Groups were then combined together, first to make a new group of six, and then twelve. At each step we discussed which of our angels we should adopt and which should be let go. When Wendy has done this with other groups, sometimes they all agree on one angel as summing up their view of their church and its future. When she did it with her church in Woking, they ended up with five. In our case we finished with four.

Some of angels were in many ways similar, reflecting a desire for our church to be a welcoming, compassionate and safe place. One was very different from the others. It reflected the possibility of struggles ahead as we seek to go forward but with a vision, albeit as yet undefined to guide us.

Overall, the day was very successful. We thought a bit about the past, and decided to 'let it go'. We took some first steps towards thinking about our future as a church. A good deal more thought, reflection and prayer will be needed as our joint view of the future gradually takes shape – there is I think, something in what that 'different' angel from our final round of discussions symbolises.

Gerald Barton



Church Away Day to St Katherine's at Limehouse

Everyone at Kingsdown was invited to an Away Day on Saturday 5 April at St Katherine's, Limehouse to consider where we are as a Church.

A group of 25 of us arrived at St Katherine's at 9.30am and were warmly welcomed and looked after with tea/coffee and croissants.

Our facilitator kept the process moving and there was a very positive attitude towards what we were doing. It became clear that the Redevelopment of the Church took a lot of our energy and commitment but is now behind us.

We can look forward to our new Minister coming in the summer and the discussions will give us a good start in working out with the new Minister where we as a Church are going in the future.

Rob Hutchings



A Day to Remember

Saturday 5th April was a day to remember, as some members of Kingsdown congregation embarked on a day to think about our church and what it meant to us and the wider community.

Since the last project had taken its toll, it was now time for new beginnings. As we all lead such busy and varied lives, we sometimes only meet members on Sunday for worship,, so it was a welcomed opportunity to get to know people.

The venue at St Katherine was ideal as it was a Christian centre, comprising of a Chapel, conference rooms, and many other facilities appertaining to peace and tranquillity.

Wendy Beard, Learning & Development Officer who was the day's Facilitator, began the session with a prayer, she then depicted the scene of Jesus opening the door and walking to meet us on the way the calmness that I felt was overwhelming.

Other aspects we consider was the paths we travel, straight or crooked, getting rid of clutter and things that keep us back from progressing.

Working in groups and group dynamics; The outcomes that we hope to achieve at the end of the session, The sharing, caring, listening and much more.

We wish to thank Wendy for being an excellent facilitator, for the catering arrangements and for Sue and Gerald Barton for arranging the day.

Sybil Corbin



A smile is a very inexpensive way to improve your appearance.

Wow!!

Saturday 29th March - What an astonishing day.



We entered the London Drill and Band Competition Day in Bexleyheath and ... goodness ... the Boys did Well!

- We came home with the two main trophies: **Best Overall Band in London** and **Best Musical Accuracy**.
-
- We also came home with the **Best Drum Major Trophy** (Sgt Nathan Howard).
-
- We still have the **Best Boys' Brigade Drum Team in London**.
-
- We were **runners-up in the Best Drill Squad event**.
- Cpl Matthew Plews took **bronze as best solo drummer in London**.
-
- Cpl Michael Cummings took **bronze as third best solo bugler in London**.
-
- Bravo to the Novice Drum Team and Pte Noah Robbins (solo bell lyre) for their excellent efforts too.

Brilliant, just brilliant.

Awesome performances and stunning teamwork.

A good day for 10th Ealing.

Our Boys are, as ever, the heroes today.

Tony Plews

The Annual BB Display



What is the Annual Display?

Once a year, instead of having a regular BB meeting, we invite family and friends to watch the Boys playing, competing and performing in the church hall.

The Annual Display is the single most important BB event of the year and all Boys and parents are encouraged to attend.

When does it take place?

The Display always happens on a Friday night soon after Easter. This year it is on **Friday 6th June**.

What time does it begin and when does it end?

The Display begins at 7:00 pm and should finish at about 9:30 pm. There will be lots of people coming to watch so please arrive early to guarantee a seat.

What happens at the Annual Display?

For the first ten minutes, we hold a simple Fall-In ceremony. The Boys all line up in the hall and the Seniors march on the Company Colours (our flags). After that all of the Boys take turns in performing for the audience: some Boys will do sports and gymnastics, some will play in the Band, some will compete in games. At the end of the evening, awards and promotions are presented.

What should the audience expect?

You should expect to be impressed and surprised by the Boys. They will be jumping higher and playing better and marching smarter in order to impress you.

It is also at times a very casual and funny evening so you should expect to laugh lots, and you should expect to be moved as you watch your son move up through the Company and take another big step towards manhood.

Easter 2014 in Buxton

This year, I decided to honour an outstanding visit to my extended family, in Buxton.

Although the couple I visited are not regular church goers, they checked on details for Easter services at Buxton Methodist church and Veronica {my daughter's former mother-in-law}, accompanied me to the morning service, whilst Roy {her husband} stayed at home to prepare a delicious brunch!

The church was packed and the seating arrangement was with chairs and a space at the back for after church tea, cakes and biscuits.

The rousing Wesleyan Hymns lifted the rafters and it was heart-warming, to see the number of children ranging from toddlers to teenagers, who obviously attend service there - a phenomena which appears to be fast diminishing in so many of our churches, over the past couple of decades.

Before the children left for their department, the minister announced an **Easter egg hunt**. Baskets made out of cardboard, packed with mini Easter eggs, were hidden around the church.

The children then searched for these, to the accompaniment of music,

whilst the adults looked on with smiling faces.

Not surprisingly, the older children were the first to find the baskets and I could hear the toddler, who sat between his parents close to me, bewailing the fact that he could not find any! When the children returned to the altar with the spoils for a blessing, the ministers reassured those that didn't have a basket that the eggs would be shared among everyone and that must have pleased the little boy next to me as, when he returned with his mother, he had a smile on his face!

Another act that was also new to me, was that, before the children left, the minister had indicated, that the children would be making Easter gardens which they would bring back before the service ended, and truly they returned and processed around the room with their gardens during the singing of the penultimate hymn.

These gardens were made of plastic seed trays, filled with soil and planted with heather and other small greenery, flowering flowers and small ornaments, which the children would take home. I wondered whether any seeds were also planted.

The second Highlight. Was a 6 miles walk around the lady Bower Reservoir, passing the rolling hillside speckled with sheep and new lambs. This tranquil scene not only soothed soul, but was a reminder of God's wonder and peace that can be found through a simple journey!

We pray that the sacrifice of Good Friday, and the promise of Easter, may stay with us all.

Blossom Jackson

A POEM

(Seen on the door of a village church)

If after church you wait awhile,
Someone will greet you with a smile.
Though if you quickly rise and flee,
We'll all seem stiff and cold maybe.
The one beside you in the pew
Is, perhaps, a stranger too.
All here, we have our fears and cares.
All of us need each other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet
With us around God's mercy seat.

Seen on Church Notice Boards:

If you really believe we are the children of God, should we not call home more often?

Patience is a virtue that carried a lot of wait.

It takes sixty muscles to frown, but only thirteen to smile. Why waste energy?

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep - talk to the shepherd.

Submitted by **Les Goodchild**

ChurchCheck Report

In November, the Church Council decided to commission a 'ChurchCheck' report on our church using a small part of our 'Talents' gift from the Circuit. This involves a visit by a 'mystery worshipper' who comes along unannounced to assess how we come across to a newcomer.

The assessment covers everything from whether the church looks clean and tidy from the outside and whether the notice boards are up to date, to how welcome the 'mystery worshipper' was made to feel both before and after the service, and the quality of the service itself.

We were visited by a 'mystery worshipper' on 16th April, and happily we have received a very encouraging report, scoring 95%. Here are some of the mystery worshipper's comments -

I was impressed by the church as it was warm and inviting. I was welcomed by Tom who bid me hello, asked how I was and if I would like any refreshments. The pre-service atmosphere was respectful with people praying.

The sermon was inspiring and discussed how people related to each other. The Rev Howe talked about

how people should help each other and to try to end suffering in the world. I found it very uplifting. The singing was loud and I found it very enjoyable.

After the service, I was invited to join them for drinks, biscuits and cakes. There were posters and reference items about FairTrade within the church..... All members of the congregation were asked to stay for refreshments....

I liked the hymns and the feel of the worship..... This experience made me feel comfortable about Christian values and God.

Would the mystery Worshipper come again? 'Definitely'.

The only point on which we were marked down was the fact that our church and community activities were not mentioned during the service. These are, at least in the News-sheet.

So, we are doing well. However, like any organisation that does well, we should not rest on our laurels and become complacent!!

Gerald Barton



relaunches as

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Methodist
relief and
development

On 8 April 2014 the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) announced an ambitious set of plans for the future, including a new name to reflect its commitment to tackle poverty. From today, it will be known as **All We Can**, the Methodist relief and development partner.

The charity's new strategy and strengthened identity are the result of a wide-ranging strategic review, carried out over the last year, involving supporters, staff, volunteers and overseas partners.

Maurice Adams, Chief Executive of **All We Can**, says: "Over the years All We Can, under various names, has provided support and resources to many millions of people in great need. Our vision for the next chapter in the story of Methodist relief and development work seeks to build upon our strengths and heritage. This change has been inspired by our past so that we can continue the work for the future"

"We believe that our collaborative approach to tackling poverty, rooted in Christian principles and Methodist values, is more relevant than ever. We have refocused our work to better support our partners – including churches, organisations and individuals – to bring about lasting change in their communities. Our new identity reflects the renewal of our commitment to work in partnership and to do all we can for those who need us most."

New identity

For its new name, the charity has taken inspiration from words attributed to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:

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.

Maurice Adams explains: "As part of our strategic review, we considered the organisation's identity and the way we present ourselves. We had recognised for some time that the name we adopted nearly 30 years ago no longer accurately reflected the work we do – having been much more than simply a fund for many years – and that it was not helping us in the challenging tasks of raising our profile and increasing support. Our new name and strengthened identity reflects our future role and vision, as well as our Methodist roots and heritage."

Increasing impact

As part of the charity's plans to increase its impact in the future, today it also launched a new initiative to help churches and faith-based organisations in poor communities to effectively meet the needs of their neighbours.

Over five years, this aims to reach one million people with sustainable long term support, through the efforts of one thousand churches across ten countries.

"Religion is central to many societies and communities. Faith groups are often highly trusted, active in even the most remote communities, and the first group to which the poor turn in times of need and crisis," commented Maurice Adams. "Our new Church CAN (Church Community Action for Neighbours) initiative builds on All We Can's existing strengths in partnering with small local organisations, by working in collaboration with churches and offering training and support so that they can effectively respond to the needs of their local communities."

The initiative will focus on Methodist church partners in developing countries, and has been developed in co-operation with the World Church Relationships team of the Methodist Church in Britain.

Going where the need is greatest

All We Can has always been committed to reaching the most marginalised people where the need is greatest, and will continue to focus on communities which are often overlooked and underserved by larger agencies.

Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain, said: "John Wesley famously said 'Go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most.' One of the important things about All We Can through its history has been the focus upon people truly on the margins. Methodists have great resonance with that idea that you listen to people who no one else seems to care about, and yet make enormous differences to their lives."

Do all you can

British Methodism has always had a strong commitment to social justice and practical compassion, and All We Can continues to reflect those values. The charity is using the launch of All We Can to invite Methodists to renew their commitment to doing all they can to contribute to the alleviation of poverty and speak out against injustice. Tim Baker, a volunteer coordinator for All We Can in the Thames Valley Circuit, said: "All We Can is about doing all that I can, all that we can, all that the people involved in the charity and in Methodism can do to bring about a better, safer, less broken world."



History of Kingsdown Methodist Church

In September 1959 Kingsdown Methodist Church was formed by the amalgamation of the Moullin Memorial Church, Northfields, and the West Ealing Church. At that time the Minister was the Rev. Frank Reedman.

The West Ealing site, which was at the junction of Uxbridge Road and Bedford Road was sold and the money used to build Kingsdown. Only the four walls and the roof of the old church were left. The tower was taken down and a new vestibule was built. The gallery was removed

and pews replaced by chairs. The front wall and pulpit were brought forward by about three feet and new vestries All were built. The organ was rebuilt and repositioned.

All of the auxiliary buildings were pulled down and replaced by a suite of new buildings. During this time the Sunday School was held in the Northfield Community Centre.

At the time of the opening of the premises the Minister was the Rev. George Howarth, the new hall and ancillary rooms were opened

by Mrs. Vera Reedman on Saturday, 15th September, 1962 and the Church by Mr. E. Gilbert, Secretary of the Trustees, on Saturday 16th February, 1963.

We have since made the rear of the premises into a sports arena which was opened by the then England Football Manager, Walter Winterbottom.

In 1975 we altered the kitchen, Minister's vestry and added the Russell Room, so called as the majority of the work was financed by a gift from the late Miss Russell, a member of the Church.

Following on from George Howarth, we then had the Rev. John Crouch, who unfortunately died whilst in office, and until a new Minister was appointed the Rev. Lesley Webb deputised. From then on we have had Rev. Denis Dobell, Rev. Jack Roberts, Rev. David Holland, Rev. Cecil Smith, Rev. Roger Dunlop, Rev. Peter Catford, and our present Minister, the Rev. Chrissie Howe.

During George Howarth's time we became a stewardship Church and have remained so ever since.

One Church Member has become a Methodist Minister, Anthony Keast.

We have supported the NCH (*now Action for Children*) for many years and have raised a considerable amount of money for them. Our Boys' Brigade have had a very strong musical tradition and have won many local and London competitions. Some members have also paraded before the Queen at Windsor Castle and have been involved in the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. Over many years our young people have produced various shows, which have proved very popular.

This article was originally written by Ken Pennells some 15 or more year's ago and submitted to Colin Pratt, who was at the time putting together a "History of the Churches in the Ealing and Acton Circuit of the Methodist Church.

Submitted by **Janet Smith**
(next time a "History of the Hanwell Church")



MWiB- London District

Past President's Report 2012-2013

2012-2013, that marked my final and second year as president, was no less eventful than the previous year, as the movement progressed through its initial stage as the newly fledged women's movement- Methodist Women in Britain [MWiB].

The commissioning of the second President and the Launch of the New Butterfly Logo at last year's conference held in London, marked an important milestone in the connexional movement, that is also the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodists and Uniting Church Women [WFMUCH]

To that extent MWiB, at both macro and micro levels, not only enables us to confirm our Methodist identity, but aims at enabling, equipping and encouraging women in our churches, the communities in which we live and worldwide, to be true disciples of Christ.

I contend that the beating heart of the movement is at church, Circuit and District levels, where policy direction from the leadership executive team and Forum, informs the way forward for growing the movement. This is where the nitty gritty of the work is carried out and requires commitment, sharing of skills, growing in grace and

respecting and valuing the skills that each of us have to offer. I have been privileged to work with women, connexionally, in a manner, I could not hitherto have imagined and for this I will be eternally grateful

The year began with the 'Thanks Giving Service' for more than Gold in Central London, where it was acknowledged that the 2012 Games, marked the world's largest church engagement in an Olympics. I was glad that so many people in the Methodist church, connexionally, were able to support me as I took on the role of Athletes Family Homestay coordinator on behalf of the church.

Attendance in Glasgow for the Legacy event, in November 2012, was no less inspirational, and enabled us to share our Olympic Journey and contribute to the pre-planning for the impending Commonwealth Games in Scotland. Visiting the three Sectors, for meetings or participating in services and District events, has enabled me to meet more people. I was also able to share and learn new things

Working on committees - Discipleship, Health and Wellbeing and the Gender Forum, has also enabled me to share ideas and

contribute to policies that can affect the vision and life of the church.

Regarding the Gender Toolkit that is being prepared, along with others, it is anticipated that these will be ready for presentation in time for next year's conference

Of equal, but different involvement has been my link with the Government Equality Office and being able to circulate the regular News Flashes sent, that affect the lives of women from UN Levels, to Parliamentary Decisions. This culminated with my attendance, in London for the Video Link with the UN on Britain's response to the 'Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW]. It is gratifying to see, following The noting of Session that Great Britain had not prosecuted anyone for Female Genital mutilation, but currently the first case has been brought against a doctor for this crime.

The biennial Weekend Away Conference - 'Because you're Worth it' held at Highleigh in the summer, provided an interesting programme and much food for thought. It was pleasing that the District was able to fund the equivalent of three places.

My final task was to ensure that role descriptions for those holding offices were prepared and agreed by the

executive, from church to Presidential levels. These should act as guidelines that can be reviewed and updated each year as individuals carry out their roles and functions.

My current role is primarily advisory and I have also attended Forums when Rev. Femi Cole-Njie has not been able to attend. Next year, by election and agreement, I have accepted the appointment as the next District Forum representative.

MWIB, has evolved to a Butterfly with wings and a force for Good, within our church. Its Ideals are sound and in my opinion, anyone who is involved, needs to embrace it for the good of all. It will not, however grow, without a recognition of its goals and commitment to hard work. The challenge is to attract other women, into the movement. Where the work is vibrant, ministers understand the goals, recognise the value of the work and do give encouragement and support. Where this is not apparent, the 'Butterfly cannot take Flight! Or even bump around in an unrelenting road, which is not our vision.

My prayer is that the movement can grow through God's grace.

Blossom Jackson
Past President April 2014

Churches criticise Budget alcohol announcement

Three major British Churches have criticised government plans to scrap the alcohol duty escalator as announced in the recent Chancellor's Budget speech.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church say that George Osborne's announcement is 'irresponsible', signalling good news for the drinks industry, while the taxpayer is left to bear the social and financial costs of problem drinking.

"As alcoholic drinks have become more affordable – an estimated 61% more affordable since 1980 - the harm caused by alcohol misuse has increased, and already costs the UK £21bn per year. Research shows that introducing a minimum unit price on alcohol would have a significant impact on problem drinking. Doctors, healthcare professionals and charities have long expressed their support for such a measure."



No support for Religious Education

The Government's failure to provide bursaries for those wishing to teach Religious Education has been described as "rank discrimination." While the government offers £20,000 bursaries to cover the living costs of postgraduates studying to teach many other subjects, like languages, maths or the sciences, the same is not true of students looking to teach RE.

Childcare minister Elizabeth Truss MP confirmed this month that no bursaries would be offered for RE teachers in training this year, despite representation from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education, and the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend John Pritchard. John Keast, chairman of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, said in a statement that it was "hard to avoid the conclusion that the refusal to give bursaries to RE trainees whilst providing them for nearly every other subject is pure discrimination by this Government against RE".

When you plan your garden this Spring

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be happy

Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed

Turnip to help one another

Turnip the music and dance.

Water freely with patience and

Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden.

Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden

We must have thyme:

Thyme for fun

Thyme for rest

Thyme for ourselves.

29 May - Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as

could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Growing up or growing old...

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favourite 'fast food' when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously.. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'home," I explained. 'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the lad was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I'd figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore jeans, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card. My parents never drove me to school.. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 10 PM, after playing the national anthem and epilogue; it came back on the air at about 6 am. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people...

Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --My brother delivered a newspaper, seven days a week. He had to get up at 6 every morning.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?



Do you need any Jam Jars for the Jam you might soon be making?!

Alan Smith has some - just call 020 8840 4803

Ealing Residents' Rewards Scheme

A new council initiative offers you the chance to get discounts on everything from a meal out or a visit to the cinema, to haircuts or holidays – simply by playing your part in boosting recycling. More details on:

<https://www.greenredeem.co.uk/pwpcontrol.php?pwpID=10880>



Recycle your Coffee Bags, Coffee Bean Bags and Coffee Jar Lids

St Thomas the Apostle Church in Boston Road, Hanwell is collecting discarded coffee refill bags, coffee bean bags and coffee jar lids as part of a Kenco initiative to reduce landfill.

It is one of 69 drop off points in the UK and the top three will win a bench made out of recycled coffee packaging and a year's supply of coffee.

**The Drop Off point is open
between 8.00 am and 5.30 pm**



**Kingsdown's Charity of the Year
2013/14**

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.

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

Steve and Liz Palmer

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS:

Part 5 of 12 : The Great War - Woodbine Willie



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

The Rev George Anketell Studdert Kennedy was the son of a parson who followed in his father's calling and in 1914 became vicar of St Paul's, Worcester. Within a few weeks the Great War began and George, like many other young clergy, immediately volunteered as an army chaplain and soon found himself on the western front, right in the middle of the 'war to end all wars'. By the time the war was over he had achieved an odd new name, a Military Cross for 'exceptional bravery' and an honoured place in its annals. The young chaplain had become 'Woodbine Willie' - a nickname given him by the soldiers in the trenches, but which stuck with him for the rest of his life.

People under fifty probably won't have any idea what a 'Woodbine' was, but for my generation it was the cheapest way into the forbidden joys of smoking. 'Woodbines' - small cigarettes - were available in packets of five (rather than ten or twenty) and so even pocket money could buy them. During the Great War they were the standard popular 'fag' in an era when almost all men smoked. Indeed, my father, tending wounded and even dying men as an army medic, would routinely light a

cigarette and place it between their lips.

'Woodbine Willie' carried a permanent supply of Woodbines in his pockets along with his Bible - hence the nickname. He gave men a 'fag', and at the same time, in the most natural way, offered them encouragement, sympathy and prayer. He insisted on sharing all their experiences, including going into No Man's Land to minister to the injured and dying - allies or enemies.

The chaplains serving on the battlefield won the universal respect of the troops. They insisted on sharing the life of the trenches and getting to know the soldiers personally. This led many chaplains, including Studdert Kennedy, radically to alter their approach and even their theology. They quickly realised how remote the average soldier was from formal church services and the language of the Bible and the Prayer Book. They came back after the War determined to change things in church, but it wasn't easy.

Studdert Kennedy moved from being a typical Edwardian parson, who

thought that the main object of a war was to win it - he once joined the troops for bayonet practice - to being a convinced pacifist who thought the best thing to do with wars was to end them.

After the war he became a vicar in the City of London, a published poet and in the early days of radio a popular broadcaster. When he died in 1929 it was reported that crowds lined the pavements as his funeral procession made its way through the

streets. Food for the Fed-up was the title of a book he wrote principally for the soldiers in the trenches. It was the Creed explained in their language. The Unutterable Beauty was the title of his Collected Poems, many of them based on his experience of the western front. He did indeed find a mysterious beauty in the grim humour, honest fear and raw courage of the men with whom he had so often shared a fag and a prayer.



Stop that now

An elderly woman had just returned home from an evening church service when she realised an intruder was in the house. She yelled: "Stop now! Acts 2:38! ("..turn from your sin...").

The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. Soon the police arrived and as the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All she did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

**God is not as much concerned about our ability
as our availability.**



JULIAN of NORWICH

Julian was a woman who lived in Norwich, and in 1373, on the 13th May, she had a series of visions of Jesus that were so important to her that she spent the next 20 years learning to read and write so that she could share these visions with others. Imagine the hard work and trouble that must have caused because it was very rare for any woman to read and write at that time, let alone an unimportant countrywoman. Julian lived most of her life in a small room that joined onto one wall of St Julian's Church in Norwich. And you can actually visit the room (it was bombed during the Second World War but rebuilt).

Dame Julian wrote about the love of God and you can still read her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love' today. The book ends with the words "before God made us, he loved us". Before we were born, God chose us for the work we are to do. And as we know, God doesn't make mistakes. He chose you and me, and he loves us. What a wonderful promise!

NOR - PUZZLE

All the answers start with the letters NOR. Answers at the bottom of the page.

What NOR is....

1. The language of the Vikings.
2. A compass point.
3. Three English counties.
4. A country.
5. A man's name and a style of church building.
6. The town where Julian lived.
7. It's not unusual.

What do you get if you cross a Viking and a detective?

Inspector Norse.



What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They have the same middle name.

Answers: 1. Norse 2. North 3. Northumberland, Norfolk and Northamptonshire 4. Norway 5. Norman 6. Norwich 7. normal

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MAY

- Fri 2 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 3 10.30 am Coffee & Chat in the Foyer - Everyone welcome
- Mon 5 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 6 2 pm Kingsdown Club - A Talk by the Rev Peter Catford
- Wed 7 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (Term time only)
7.00 pm Youth Group
- Sat 10 10.00am to 12.30pm Annual Book Fair for Christian Aid
Admission 40p. Books, cakes, plants, gifts, bric-a-brac, and
Traidcraft
- Tue 13 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 20 2 pm Kingsdown Club - The Caroliners entertain us

See p6. for details of Christian Aid events in May

This year's Annual General Church Meeting

Sunday 18th May after the morning service.

**The meeting is open to everyone who attends Kingsdown, so
please put the date in your diaries.**

- Jun 6 7.30 pm Annual BB Display

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.