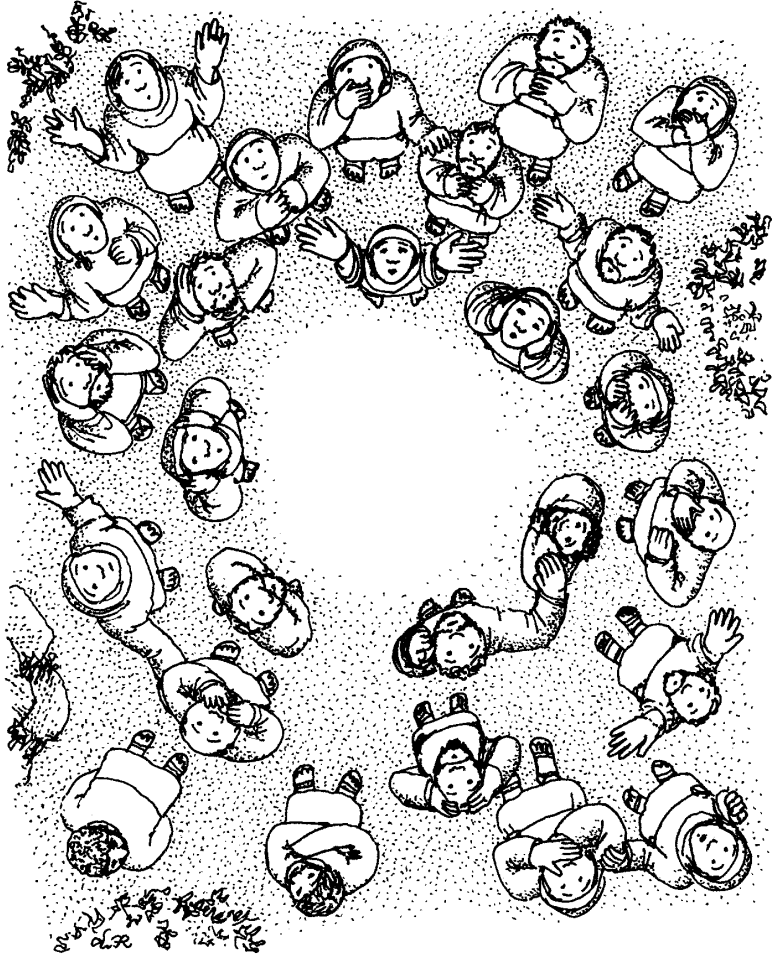




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



May 2013

SERVICES FOR MAY



- 5 May 10.30 Dr Anita Oji, Christian Aid Sunday
6.30 Study - Desire and Scandal
- 12 May 10.30 Rev Peter Catford, Family/Parade Service
6.30 Study - Church
- 19 May 10.30 Rev Peter Catford, Holy Communion
6.30 Study - Creation
- 26 May 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford
6.30 Study - Hope and Re-imagining



Study Series at Kingsdown

Having followed the 'Just People' Series of Bible studies during Lent, Kingsdown Methodist Church will be looking at the work of the French historian and philosopher René Girard and the Catholic theologian James Alison through their book 'The Joy of Being Wrong'.

The studies are open to everyone in the Circuit and all are welcome to come along. The sessions will be at Kingsdown on Sundays at 6:30pm and are planned as follows:

- 5th May - Desire and Scandal
- 12th May - Church
- 19th May - Creation
- 26th May - Hope and Re-imagining.

There will be an opportunity for those who find it helpful to meet at 6pm for tea and fellowship, before a time of worship and then study.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the May 2013 issue is Friday 24 May 2013

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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Our Calling

In 2000, the Conference adopted *Our Calling* – four interconnected sentences (sometimes reduced to four labels) again intended to summarise our core convictions, but this time doing more: initiating *processes of change* in the pattern of Church life that we had inherited from our history, particularly from the 20th century.

Here are the *Our Calling* themes: The Church exists to:

- Increase our awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's Love;
- Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care;
- Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice;
- Make more disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love. Worship.

The weekly acts of worship are the time when the Kingsdown community comes together. All ages taking part is an encouraging sign of life. Thanks to those who support the music, the flowers, the worship leaders and the workers with the younger ages in Crèche and Junior church, the welcomers, stewards and communion stewards... and many more. It really is an opportunity for us all to play a part. Thank you especially to all those who provide the refreshments after the service providing space for the family to be together and support our sense of community and support one another.

Challenges that face us include the need for more support for the work with youth and children. We are fortunate to have a diverse age profile which, if we wish to maintain, we need to work on developing the spirituality of our teenagers. This we will be seeking to address in the coming year and if you have a heart for working with children, young people and families, or have ideas of how we can do this in different ways then please let us know.

There is a deep desire for worship to be glorifying to God as well as reflective of our church community and so we need to reflect further on how we can use and develop our worship. If you have a heart for worship and would like to contribute to this area of our life then again please let us know.

The regular communions are an important element of the worship diet of the church. I have been aware that there needs to be a conversation about the way we celebrate and how we include all ages of the church family whilst

respecting the wide ranges of belief of this most central part of church life. That will be a challenge we may need to address in coming months.

The regular parade and family services give an opportunity for us to vary our diet and to include other members of our church family – especially those who attend other churches. It is so good to see how they feel at home here; this sense of warmth of welcome needs to continue to be a priority.

The services at festivals need to continue to be reviewed in the coming year as these are also opportunities to connect with the wider Northfield community and concerns have been raised about our lack of advertising our service times. Another strand of worship life that has developed over the recent years has been the Bereavement Service in November. We need to ensure that this service continues to meet the needs of the community, and need a person with a heart for this ministry to build on the work that has been started. Is that you?

The healing services have been a part of the diet of Kingsdown for many years; however we have stopped this element of our worship diet. We need to discern where the spirit is inviting us to respond to this legacy and how it might develop in the future.

The evening service has been slowly declining over the last years and we are thankful to all who have enabled this expression of worship. The recent changes in the makeup of our community and also the decision by Sydney Wooldridge to step back (our organist for this service over many years) have given us the opportunity to consider the future style or need for this act of worship. Over Lent we have used the time for study and as we have not had time to discuss this in any depth decided to continue this until the end of the quarter. The circuit is keen to develop a variety of worship in the evening across the circuit and would welcome Kingsdown developing a study based act of worship . How does that sound to us?

In a conversation with one of our building users we found out that there might be an opportunity for a reflective service in the evening midweek. Is that something you may find helpful and would like to help us explore?

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. Learning and caring.

This year has shown how caring and supportive this congregation is. The deaths of Ken, Vic and Alf have left a hole in our community along with the

departure of Harold and Lynda. The number of people who have been taken ill in the congregation this year has been a little unnerving, yet the care and understanding of the congregation has been great to see as you work together. We may not have had any baptisms but we have had a wedding and Easter Sunday saw us welcome a new member.

The pastoral committee and its visitors have been a great help to me and we are considering how we can support our visitors through a pastoral care course. Anyone who feels called to this vital ministry, or to explore it, then please let me or Derek Matthews know. The caring nature of Methodist congregations is one of our strength but we must not be complacent.

Learning too has been a focus of church life; thank you to our house groups for continuing to give us all opportunities for study and it has been a privilege to join with you.

Once again the work of the Junior Church has been vital in engaging our committed children and young people, under the learning banner. Also under this we celebrate the work of the BB – which has a special focus on teaching about Jesus and the number of boys and families that are connected to us through this work widens the Kingsdown family; we need to nurture and care for leaders as well as the boys and families.

The learning element of church life has reached out beyond the church family with the annual display of Cribs. This has given us opportunities to work with Fielding School and local playgroups telling the story of Jesus' birth. We have an opportunity to build on this work and there is a real interest from Splash and Dash that we could focus more on in the coming year.

Kingsdown also hosted the circuit confirmation classes during January and February. Please encourage anyone who wishes to consider confirmation or membership training as the circuit will be running further course later in the year.

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice. Service

The Lenten studies have been focusing on being a just people considering how we use our God given resources to live out the Kingdom; one idea that came from this was to develop the work of the coffee bar with a chaplaincy to the High Street here in Northfield, so that we can discover the needs in our community and respond to them.

It is amazing how involved Kingsdown is in the community and that takes many forms.

Property – the building is well used by many members of the community. We have agreed to change the way we see those who rent our premises, seeing ourselves not as landlords but as people offering hospitality. As a first step we have offered opportunities for our users to meet with members of the property committee to see how we can work more closely together in the community.

The redevelopment project officially ended in September which signalled a major change in the way the property committee has been working. Thank you to all who have been trying to find new ways of working. We have tried to get to grips with issues like the kitchen, storage and the dreaded 5 yearly property report which hasn't been done for over 12 years. The spring clean has given the church a real face lift and we now do have storage!

The exploration of working with the doctors took a lot of our attention; I was grateful for all who shared their thoughts in such a short time as we looked at whether this was where we were being called to serve. This has now faded into the background unlikely to reappear.

Finance. The managing of the church finance has also changed over the last few months and we are getting to grips with new ways of working. We are the only church who pays its money to the circuit for ministry from its offertory and that is a very health position to be in. We still have some loans outstanding from the redevelopment - less than £20,000. It is planned that these will be paid back within 5 years.

The next set of bills for property will come from the 5 yearly inspection and so we do need to ensure that our offertory keeps pace with the assessment for ministry that we offer to the circuit. This is likely to rise as, sadly, Perivale church will close and that will have an impact on the remaining churches trying to maintain the ministry the circuit feels we need, to fulfil our calling in this place at this time.

Giving to charities still remains a priority and the World Mission and Service Committee continue to keep this firmly in with in the life of the church through Book Fairs and educational events, MRDF and more. Christian Aid is the next event in May see the Messenger p13. for more details.

Our charity of the year this year is Street Pastors, who we support through offering office and now storage space, as well as finance. Please continue to pray for this work.

The Toddler group is very popular, sometimes having to sadly turn people away as we are too full. The team work tirelessly offering care to young families which is much appreciated. It is a great witness to the love of God through Jesus. We do take the opportunity to share a little of the gospel at festivals through story and song. We certainly need to explore what other opportunities we have with this group.

The Tuesday club offers service into the community by providing a place to meet for fellowship and a great listening ear. This along with the variety of speakers gives a much need place for Northfield and we do need to see what other opportunities we have to develop this expression of service.

We offer service not only through the building but in the daily lives of our church community in the Northfield community and its families through your faithful day to day witness. The challenge for us is how to celebrate and integrate this in the coming year. The Gift of God was an attempt to do this by recognising the gifts that God has given us and how the Holy Spirit may be encouraging us to work in the future using these gifts. That was not as successful as we hoped it might be but those who came to our event learnt more about each other and it was a good time of fellowship.

The Messenger, Website and notices are really important tools that hold together and advertise our church life and service. Thank you to all who contribute to these ensuring the information flows.

We have also been encouraged through ecumenical work in the last few months in getting to know the Bless community church which meets at Elthorne Park School. They are part of the Pioneer group and there is a working agreement between Pioneer and the Methodist church at connexional level. We have started to see what opportunities there are for us to serve the community together. This has begun with a shared youth group on Wednesdays, and we are planning shared 'getting to know you' events in the coming months. There is no intention of joining churches but of pooling resources to be as effective as we can be for the Kingdom of God.

The challenge for us as a church in the year ahead is how we can build on the work already underway; where do we put our energy and resources?

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ. Evangelism

The final bit of "Our calling" is Evangelism - often the most tricky, . We often see this as big mission events, etc. However Evangelism underpins all of what happens in Service, Learning and Caring as well as Worship. One particular event that needs to be noted here was 'Prodigal'. It was a major effort and thank you goes to all who made it possible across the church community and beyond. We not only saw how talented the young people who are connected to the church are, but made one consider the familiar parable and what it means to us and challenge our commitment to God through Jesus.

There is a reluctance often to share our faith for we think we need to have all the answers, yet time and again God works with what we have not when we have it all. We do need to consider who we can grow in confidence of being able to break the sound barrier by sharing what we believe, whilst allowing others to have their own opinion.

What events can we plan in the next year to continue to encourage our sharing of faith and overtly pass on this good news?

Conclusion

It has been a year full of changes and one more comes in the next 6 weeks as the staff move around. I am sure that if we as a church and the Church Council can keep building on the foundation that God has set in the past, and look for the way in which the Spirit is moving, it will help us use the resources here so that we can continue to witness to the presence of Jesus in this community and in our lives...

We will need to prioritise and it would be helpful to hear from you what you feel our priorities should be so that when Church Council meets again it can begin to shape a plan for the next year and beyond.

Thank you

Peter



Kingsdown Family News

Kath Jarrett would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, flowers, telephone calls, etc following her recent knee operation which seems to have been successful.

Kath also tells us that she was caught by a banking fraudster with a fake call about her credit card. She gives us the details (on page 19) of how the scam works and how YOU can guard against being caught by the fraudsters.

Dear Kingsdowners;

It's a great pleasure for us to be able to thank you all for the generous gift that was given to us on leaving the Kingsdown family. We are really looking forward to choosing new things for our garden this summer and as it is an expensive hobby the garden gift tokens will be ideal to help it along. The beauty of the gift is that plants will bloom year after year and our many and varied memories of Kingsdown will flower with them. Thank you again.

We are still travelling up and down on a regular basis - have wheels will travel. Our longest stay in Ripon has been from Monday 25th March over the Easter period travelling back 2nd April and knowing what is where is really quite a problem at times. Easter was different in Ripon but still firmly celebrated and we enjoyed the experience, especially the early 'outdoor' morning service at Quarry Moor on Easter Sunday. 6am moved to 7am due to summer time! We remembered the Ealing witness walk and those that we thought would be taking part in it in our prayers.

We have also kept Kingsdown congregants and the Circuit Ministers in our prayers during the last couple of weeks as we are aware of the changes being made. Moving forward is always a bit of a challenge but remembering that Christ was a Servant as well as being the Messiah, we are sure that moving forward in Christian unity will ensure that you arrive at the right place together.

We wish you all well - Love and thanks

Lynda and Harold Blackburn

DEC Syria Appeal

I am very pleased to report that we have raised £250 from our recent collections for the Disasters Emergency Committee Syria Appeal. To date the Appeal has raised £12 million.

Olwen Britton

Sunday Morning Readers' Rota

Preachers at Kingsdown are always appreciative of those who volunteer to read the Bible lessons in our Sunday morning services. The opportunity to read comes around about once every three months for each person.

If you do not already so do, but would like to join the team of readers, please speak to me about it by 19 May as a new rota is being prepared for June/July/August.

Kathleen Loveridge

Lord Paul Boateng to preach at Ealing Green

The preacher at Ealing Green's Christian Aid service on Sunday 12th May at 11:00am will be Lord Paul Boateng. All are invited to attend this special occasion.

Paul Boateng came to Britain from Ghana with his family in 1966 following the coup which drove Kwame Nkrumah from power. A lawyer by training, he had a distinguished political career as a parliamentarian and served as a minister in the Labour Government which was elected in 1997. He was the first person of African descent to serve in the British cabinet when Tony Blair made him Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 2002. In 2005 he was appointed High Commissioner to South Africa, a post which he held until 2009. In 2010, he was made a life peer - Baron Paul Boateng of Akyem and Wembley.

from HMC News



....I don't care how many kilowatts it produces you haven't got Planning Permission!!

News from the 10th Ealing Company

BAND COMPETITION SUCCESS



As you may already know, we did really well at the London BB Band Competition last month:

- We came second in the Best Band event.
- We came joint-first in the Musical Accuracy event.
- We won the Best Drum Team event.

Many congratulations to Matthew Plews, Jonathan Lane, Chris Jones, Jonathan Cheriyan, Daniel Plews, Michael Cummings, Yousef Skandari and Matthew Turner: next year we intend to take some of the younger Band members to compete -- keep practising, Boys!

COMPANY SECTION GYM COMPETITION - April 20th

The BB London District decided to revive its Gym Competition this year and 10th Ealing decided to send along six Boys to test the water and compete. This is the first Gym Competition we've entered for over twenty years so we were very interested to see how we fared.

Our Boys competed first and we finished a close fourth. We were very happy with the result (hey, let's let someone else win something every now and then) and we picked up lots of tips on gym performance which will stand us in very good stead next year.

Bravo to Nathan Williams, Jonathan Cheriyan, Jonathan Lane, Michael Cummings, Matthew Plews and Daniel Plews, who performed superbly on and off the floor.

You'll see these fine young men leaping over the vaulting box at our

**ANNUAL DISPLAY on Friday 17th May
beginning at 7pm -
don't be late!!**



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS



BITE BACK AT HUNGER

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2013 will soon be here! And I need more collectors for House-to-house collecting and Flag Day.

I don't want to 'drop' roads we have collected in for many years, but without extra support, this will be inevitable. It isn't easy, but don't be discouraged - perhaps by those who have given up!

Collectors are also needed for FLAG DAY - 18 May - in Northfields Avenue (all day) and in the afternoon at West Ealing. Please, can you spare just ONE HOUR?

Our ANNUAL FAIR is on 11 May. Please see the poster in this edition of the Messenger. We need cakes, plants, nearly new and bric-a-brac - and you.

Thank you for all your support.

Ruby Warne

Closing Service at Perivale Methodist Church

With sadness, the closing service at Perivale Methodist Church will be on Sunday 19th May 2013 at 10:30am. In order to give God the glory for the work of Perivale Methodist Church during the past 53 years, we are celebrating with an act of worship that will include Holy Communion.

Following the service there will be a lunch provided by the Church. All are invited to attend this occasion. If you would like to join the lunch, to help us with our catering, please contact Rev. Suva Catford on (020) 8567 7550 or email: suva.catford@methodist.org.uk by 10th May. We hope very much that you will be able to join us for the occasion.

from HMC News

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books

Cakes

Plants

Raffle

Nearly New

Bric-a-Brac

Traidcraft

Saturday 11th May

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

All proceeds to:



1,000 days to go: The Global Fight Against Extreme Poverty

April 5th marked the start of the 1,000 day countdown to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 deadline. Rev Dr Mark Wakelin, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain, has joined religious leaders across the G8 countries in calling for governments to 'strike at the underlying causes of poverty.'



In a letter to the Financial Times, 80 religious leaders have urged heads of state to keep their eye on the targets set 13 years ago. With a passionate call to remember the world's poorest people, they asked the G8 leaders to keep their promises on aid and march forward with reforms on tax, trade and transparency. They have recognised today as a chance to reflect and an opportunity to re-engage with the structural issues that keep people poor:

'The MDGs remind us that in addition to providing for the wellbeing of our own societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold human dignity and the common good at the global level. Each individual has a value that can never be lost and must never be ignored.' (Taken from the letter published in today's Financial Times)

What are the MDGs?

In 2000, 189 nations made a promise to come together to try and free people from extreme poverty. This pledge became the MDGs, a set of eight targets designed to encourage development by improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries with a deadline of 2015.

The eight goals cover a range of issues including tackling the spread of disease, reducing child mortality and increasing school attendance. The MDGs have not been without criticism and world leaders are currently looking at the next steps for eradicating global poverty.

MRDF's Response with 1,000 Days to Go

The vision of the Millennium Development Goals is a good one; a group of countries, governments and organisations all working together with shared purpose and vision. We support religious leaders today in their desire to encourage those attending the G8 to stay committed to this vision. Today's timely message has been a reminder of the commitment to realise the MDGs by 2015 but also a chance to think about the much greater things that could be achieved beyond this deadline.

The world is a very different place from when UN Member States originally discussed the MDGs and then agreed to them. Dramatic headway has been achieved towards the goals in many parts of the world. However there are still many millions of people caught in the trap of extreme poverty and many of these people live in countries that are failing to change because of complex underlying issues that are not easily or quickly resolved.

The next 1,000 days provide us with an opportunity to encourage accelerated progress towards the MDGs and to continue to think creatively about how to end extreme poverty.

Maurice Adams, CEO of MRDF, comments:

'Like you and me, people all over the world want to live a life where their needs are met and their rights are acknowledged. Poverty prevents this because of precarious livelihoods, poor education, inadequate healthcare and maternal care, unsafe housing and a lack of other basic social services.'

The MDGs were a well-intended start to a global conversation on how we address this kind of crippling poverty, but there is still a critical need, and obligation, to tackle the deeper underlying issues that cause it.

MRDF is committed to social justice and human rights through its participatory, community-focussed programme of support and we know that locally generated and owned interventions to poverty often offer the most appropriate long-term solutions.'

Join in the conversation on Twitter at #1000daystogo

MRDF is working together with other agencies this year to press our leaders to take action on aid, tax, land reform and transparency as part of the IF campaign.

Find out more - read the letter published in Financial Times on April 5th - use this link

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5045/archbishop-joins-call-on-g8-to-strike-at-causes-of-poverty>

**KINGSDOWN CLUB
PROGRAMME
FOR
MAY to JULY 2013**

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 ON THE CORNER OF KINGSDOWN AVENUE / NORTHFIELD AVENUE 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 MAY

a talk by the REV PETER CATFORD

21st MAY

[AN ENTERTAINMENT] with BETTY and GLADYS

4th JUNE

A BINGO and QUIZ AFTERNOON

18th JUNE

(POT-POURRI) an ILLUSTRATED TALK by RON TEAGUE

2nd JULY

a talk by JANET SMITH

16th JULY

THE SUMMER TEA PARTY DAVE entertains

The new programme begins September 3rd 2013

Organist/Pianist - Required at Greenford

Greenford Methodist Church is in very urgent need of someone who can either play the piano or the organ, preferably for every Sunday morning and possibly some evening services with immediate effect.

If you are able to help, or you know of someone who could, please can you either send an email to Janet Malamah-Thomas on janetmalamahthomas@bpp.com or ring 07980 384509 after 6:00pm weekdays.

from HMC News

The U in JesUs

*Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U*

*You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.*

*Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.*

*When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U."*

*So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,*

But it all starts with U.

from Parish Pump





International Christian Resources Exhibition

14th - 17th May 2013, Sandown Park, Esher KT10 9AJ

Opening times: 10.00am - 5.00pm (4.30pm on Friday)

More than just an event

CRE is more than just an exhibition; it's an event with seminars and workshops led by gifted communicators in their field of expertise with presentations ranging from how to lead worship to young people and the Bible. There is also an opportunity for you to enjoy time in the arts theatre with performances from theatre companies, worship leaders, comedians and many more. A day visiting CRE is time well invested.

Complimentary Ticket to CRE

Courtesy of HMC News, here is your complimentary ticket link to this year's 24th International Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE). The ticket will save you up to a £7 entry fee.

More details can be found on the CRE website at www.creonline.co.uk.

To obtain your complimentary ticket visit the link below. Type in the few details they require, choose the "**Exhibition – complimentary**" option and print out your ticket to take along to the show.

**[http://www.eventdata.co.uk/Forms/Default.aspx?FormRef=CRE53
Visitor&Other.6=SAND2013](http://www.eventdata.co.uk/Forms/Default.aspx?FormRef=CRE53Visitor&Other.6=SAND2013)**



Beware the banking fraudsters after you PIN

A sophisticated telephone-based banking scam which largely targets older people, and tricks them into sharing their PINs and then their debit or credit cards, is on a dramatic rise.

Figures released by Financial Fraud Action UK and The UK Cards Association show that between January and August 2012, more than 1,600 bank customers fell victim to the scam, with average losses of over £4,200. The total losses in that time were £7.5m - ten times the amount stolen through the scam in the whole of 2011.

How the scam works

The scam involves a person being called by a criminal posing as someone from their bank, or even the police. The caller tells the victim that their credit or debit card needs collecting and replacing, saying there has been fraud on their account. The criminal caller often reassures the victim that the call is genuine by getting them to hang up and call the bank's number for confirmation. However, the criminal stays on the line, tricking the victim into believing they are on a new call and that the person at the end of the line is their bank.

The criminal will then either ask the person for their PIN or ask them to key their PIN into the telephone keypad, before sending a courier to collect the card. The victim is told that the card is going to the bank, but it is actually delivered to the fraudster along with the PIN obtained during the scam, providing them with everything they need to spend on the card.

Never hand over your card: Your bank or the police will NEVER ring you to tell you they are coming to your home to pick up your card. Never hand it over to anyone who comes to collect it.-

Never share your PIN: Your bank will NEVER ask you to authorise anything by entering your PIN into the telephone. NEVER share your PIN with anyone the only times you should use your PIN are at a cash machine or when you use a shop's chip and PIN machine.

Always speak to the bank securely: Before calling your bank, make sure you can hear the dial tone. Only ever call your bank on an advertised number.

Financial Fraud Action UK is the name under which the financial services industry co-ordinates its activity on fraud prevention. presenting a united front against financial fraud and its effects.

May 9: 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.

More detail of Christ's appearances, can be found in the stories in Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.

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.



May 19: Pentecost/Whit Sunday – the birthday of the Church

Pentecost took place on the well established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but he knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need his help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The English Lesson

*We'll begin with box, and the plural is boxes;
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
Then one fowl is goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.*

*You may find a lone mouse or a whole lot of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
When couldn't the plural of pan be called pen?*

*The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But the plural of vow is vows, not vine.
And I speak of a foot, and you show me your feet,
But I give a boot--would a pair be called beet?*

*If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
If the singular is this and plural is these,
Why shouldn't the plural of kiss be called kesse?*

*Then one may be that, and three may be those,
Yet the plural of hat would never be hose;
We speak of a brother, and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.*

*The masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!
So our English, I think you will all agree,
Is the trickiest language you ever did see.*

*I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you
On hiccough, thorough, slough, and through?*

*Well done! And now you wish, perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.*

*And dead; it's said like bed, not bead;
For goodness' sake, don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat.
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.)*

*A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there.
And dear and fear for bear and pear.*

*And then there's close and rose and lose--
Just look them up--and goose and choose.
And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword.*

*And do and go, then thwart and cart.
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.
A dreadful language? Why, man alive,
I'd learned to talk it when I was five,*

*. . . And yet to write it, the more I tried,
I hadn't learned it at fifty-five!*

--anonymous

Extracted from http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/gram_English_Lesson.html



Prayer for Pentecost

Loving, generous Father, In your love you gave us Jesus – sent him out to bring us back to you. And when he had completed his work, by dying on the cross, rising again, and coming back to you, you hadn't stopped giving. You gave us your Holy Spirit. You sent him at Pentecost and you send him today. Thank you Father.

Fill us with your Spirit Lord. Equip us with the gifts of your Spirit that we need to serve you. Ripen in us the fruit of your Spirit, so that our lives will be witnesses that you are alive today in this world; that you have the power to renew and restore broken hearts and lives and all creation.

Fill us with your Spirit Lord. Send us out in the Spirit's power to live and work for you, to make your difference today, for your glory.

Fill us with your Spirit Lord, we pray. Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

Cat in heaven



A cat died and went to heaven. God met her at the gates and said, "You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a minute and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on." God smiled and instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident and they all went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer that he had made to the cat. The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives: from cats, dogs, and even people with brooms! If we could just have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again."

God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, it is WONDERFUL! The Meals on Wheels you have been sending over are delicious!"

Methodists encouraged to stay ahead in blood and organ donation

A new survey suggests that while individual church members may have a significant interest in donating blood and organs, the bigger picture shows that it is not encouraged by UK churches as part of their committed Christian giving.

The survey was conducted by Christian Research on behalf of Kore as part of the fleshandblood campaign launched earlier this year in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

The survey shows that close to 10% of Christians have given blood in the last year compared to 4% of the general population who have given blood in the last two years, and almost half of all Christians are registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register compared with 31% of the general population.

Sponsored by Give.net and in association with denominations, organisations and festivals including the Church of England, Salvation Army, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Hope and Evangelical Alliance, the fleshandblood campaign marks the first time NHS Blood and Transplant has worked alongside the Church on a national initiative of this kind.

from Parish Pump

Dictionary of Project Terms

Are you working on any project this Spring? Here are some phrases that may come in handy!

~ Project slightly behind original schedule due to unforeseen difficulties -- *We got so sick of working on this that we decided to do something else.*

~ Major Technological Breakthrough -- *Back to the drawing board.*

~ Developed after years of intensive research -- *It was discovered by accident.*

~ Customer satisfaction is believed assured -- *We are so far behind schedule that the customer will be happy to get anything at all from us.*

~ The design will be finalized in the next reporting period -- *We haven't started this job yet, but we've got to say something.*



St BONA of PISA

May 29th



Bona was born in Pisa, Italy in 1156. When she was 14 she made her first journey, going to see her father who was fighting in the

crusades near Jerusalem. On the way back she was captured by pirates in the Mediterranean. Rescued, she set out again, this time taking with her a large number of pilgrims to make the 1,000 mile journey to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain.

Bona became an official guide on this famous pilgrimage route and made the journey 9 times, "full of energy, helpful, and unselfish, ready to reassure with her smile those who were sick."

In recent times St Bona has come to be associated as the patron saint of travellers along with St Christopher; and in particular of couriers, guides and air-hostesses.



TRAVELLING ON...

There are lots of journeys recorded in the Bible. Can you find the answers to these travel questions? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where Paul was shipwrecked on his journey to Rome (Acts, chapt. 27)?
2. Where was there no room for Mary and Joseph when they journeyed from Nazareth?
3. Which country did Joseph's brothers travel to find food? (Genesis, chapt.42)
4. Why does the Bible always say that people were 'going up' to Jerusalem?
5. When Moses led the people out of Egypt, what did he take with him? (Exodus, chapt.13)
6. Which of the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse rides a red horse? (Revelation)

What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?

Hop in!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?

Lost.

Answers: 1.Malta 2.in the inns of Bethlehem 3.Egypt 4.because Jerusalem is built on a hill, so whatever direction you come from, you will always be going up to it. 5.Joseph's bones 6. War.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MAY

- Wed 1 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
7.00 pm Youth Group
- Fri 3 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 4 10.30 am Coffee & Chat in the Foyer - Everyone welcome.
- Mon 6 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 7 2 pm Kingsdown Club - a talk by the Rev Peter Catford
- Sat 11 10.00-12.30 CA Annual Book Fair . Entrance 40p.
Proceeds to Christian Aid (books, cakes, plants, raffle, nearly new,
bric-a-brac & Traidcraft) (see poster p13)
- Tue 14 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Fri 10 10.15 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - Everyone welcome
- Fri 17 7 pm BB Annual Display
- Tue 21 2 pm Kingsdown Club - An Entertainment with Betty and Gladys

ADVANCE DATES

*Saturday, 6 July Book Fair with stalls. Proceeds to Marie Cure Cancer Care
- Ealing*



MAY CENTENARY

The Royal Horticultural Society Great Spring Show was held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for a one-off event in 1913.

It has been held there almost every year since and is now better known simply as the Chelsea Flower Show.