



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



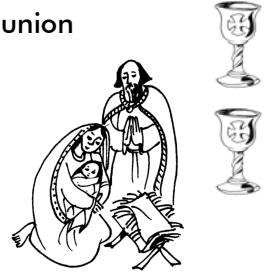
December 2014-January 2015



SERVICES FOR

DECEMBER

- 7 Dec 10.30 Deacon Richard Goldstraw
- 14 Dec 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Gift/Family/Parade Service
- 21 Dec 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
6.30 Carol Service
- CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 24 Dec 11.30 Holy Communion
- CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 25 Dec 10.00 Family Service
- 28 Dec 10.30 Mrs Keji Phillips



JANUARY 2015

- 4 Jan 10.30 Rev Peter Catford
- 11 Jan 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family/Parade Service
- 18 Jan 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Covenant/Holy Communion/
Reception of New Members
(followed by 'Vision' meeting for AwayDay)
- 25 Jan 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford



The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the February 2015 issue is Friday 23 January 2015

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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Dear friends,

As I write this the preparations for Christmas are beginning. In the church some are getting ready to fill the worship space with Nativity scenes in readiness for the traders' evening and the visits of local schools.

In preparation for our carol service I've been looking at some of the beautiful images of the nativity that artists have produced over the centuries. Some of the images show a richly dressed Jesus with Mary and Joseph clothed as the wealthy upper middle class of the renaissance in velvets and bright colours. One of my favourite images is this painting by Rembrandt. It seems to fade into the gloom of the the stable so that the observer has no idea who could be lingering in the shadows. It invites me in to imagine myself there and leaves space for my mind and spirit to wander. However, its darkness and mystery also make it hard to show in print or projection. So my apologies if it's difficult to see.



Nativity scenes like Rembrandt's or those displayed at the church always make me wonder at what we put in and what we leave out, who is included or added by our imagination, and who we'd rather was absent. The beauty and colour of the images draw us in and express our wonder and our joy at God's love expressed in the Christmas story. However,

they should also lead us to think again, to wonder at what the stories in Luke's and Matthew's Gospels tell us of that love. What is the reality to which they point?

The following poem appears in the book, 'Darkness Yielding'

Advent Absentee - Sylvia Sands

*Here I go again,
carefully unpacking the figures of the crib,
tenderly wiping dust from Mary's eyes
and Joseph's beard,
all the while practising my contemplative skills.*

*Here I am,
duster in hand,
seeking to emulate
the shepherds' enthusiasm and openness,
(wipe, wipe)
the wise men's courage and generosity,
(dust, dust)
Mary's mysticism,
Joseph's humility,
the Christ Child's vulnerability.*

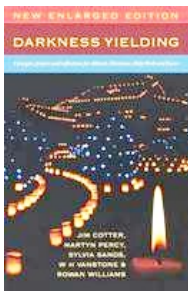
Who am I kidding?

*It is the absent figure that haunts me,
I stand shoulder to shoulder
in grim, callous, irritable solidarity
with that wretched innkeeper.
No room, no time, no way.*

*Nobody has ever dared carve him in wood
and include him in the Christmas crib,
Have they?*

As we travel through Christmas this year, I invite you to look with fresh eyes and listen with fresh ears to the story of God's love, to allow your imagination and your spirit to be drawn into the drama once again and to find in it the familiar and the new.

Who would you include in your nativity scene? Innkeeper? Hassled parents struggling in the crowds? High priests? Herod? Children? Midwife? Where would you place yourself in the scene? What difference will it make to your life and your faith this Christmas and beyond?



Wishing you God's blessing and peace
Rachel

Darkness Yielding
Liturgies, Prayers and Reflections for Christmas, Holy Week and Easter
Martyn Percy, Jim Cotter, Sylvia Sands



New Year Tasks

I'm planning to take down the Kingsdown Christmas decorations after Epiphany, and would appreciate offers of help.

Kathleen Loveridge
020 8579 3941 or kathleen.loveridge@btinternet.com

Christmas 2015

That's right! Planning has begun for Advent/Christmas 2015 church decorations.

Please donate any cards with images depicting the Christmas story, when you take them down. There will be a box in the church for them.

Thanks.
Kathleen, Pam & Mary

Church Vision

As we prepare for our two lunches in January and February and our away day later in the spring, could I ask you all to spend a few minutes each day in prayer and reflection?

Firstly think of the good, the people who've added to our fellowship, the events that have enriched your life etc. and give thanks.

Secondly, think of the things that rankle, the things that annoy, the things that need changing and spend some time asking for God's forgiveness and healing.

Thirdly, hold before God your hopes, dreams and longings and know that God hears.

Finally spend a few minutes in silence listening for God. If this is difficult, or your mind wanders don't worry.

Almighty and Grace-filled God,
In your great mercy and love you have created all people as your children
and called us to live in your abundant and overflowing life.
We give you thanks for the life of your people in Kingsdown.
We ask you to show us what needs to be changed and forgive us our faults.
Give us fresh dreams and inspire us with fresh visions of your kingdom in this place, we pray.
Empower us to live in your way and comfort and protect us this day and forever.
In the name of God, the Almighty, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit we pray.

Amen

More information and candles are available at the church from Saturday 29th November.

Rachel Bending





KINGSDOWN FAMILY NEWS

We were sorry that **Peter Loveridge** got home for so short a spell, only to be re-admitted to hospital with a further infection. Hopefully, by the time we go to print, he will be back with **Kathleen**, on the road to recovery. Please continue to remember them in your prayers as well as any other members of the church family who may be unwell at this time.

Hazel Pennells is anxiously awaiting a knee operation which has been cancelled twice. All good wishes for a good result really soon Hazel.

On Sunday, 16 November, at our Morning Service we celebrated two special events:

Welcomed were **Mr Raymond Sassa**, his daughter **Elijah**, and baby son **Raymond Junior**, for a Blessing and Thanksgiving for young Raymond. (Mother and son have had a lot of ill health since he was born and it is planned that, when they are able to travel, Raymond will be baptised amongst his family in Angola.) (It was lovely to see the family joined by mum **Emilia** the following Sunday.)

Also welcomed were **Lisa** and **Daniel Greer**, daughters **Daisy** and **Livy** for the Baptism of Livy into the church family.

We send both families congratulations, all good wishes for the future, and every blessing.

Many of our Kingsdown family who were welcomed by **Rachel** and **Tom** to the Manse for any of the 'getting to know you' meals will, no doubt wish to reiterate their thanks for the hospitality shown. All the feedback seems to reflect thoroughly enjoyable occasions for all who were able to take up the invitations.

Margaret Hennessey who was in Larch House, Manor Court, Britten Drive, Southall, died on Friday, 21st November, at the age of 91. Her funeral is to be on Thursday 11th December at 11.0 am.

The **Rev David Holland** sends his warmest greetings and good wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to all at Kingsdown.



Night Shelter at Kingsdown

The proposed Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelters project was fully reported in the November issue of the Messenger, so most of you will know that Kingsdown is doing its bit by hosting guests every Sunday night from 30 November to 21 December.

A number of offers of help have already been received by Sue Barton, but additional offers would be much appreciated for the following:

- Laundering sheets and towels (no ironing required)
- Desserts for 7th and 14^h December (any type or size)
- Loan of board games and general interest magazines (for the entertainment of the guests)
- Loan of a couple of large ovenproof casserole dishes.

Please remember the ECWNS guests and volunteers at Kingsdown and elsewhere in your prayers.

For more information, or to make an offer of help, please contact Sue Barton on 020 8840 7704 or by email at sue.garland6039@btinternet.com.



ALL WE CAN (Methodist Relief & Development) - Ebola Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who so kindly supported the Ebola Appeal, the total collected so far amounts to £184.00 which has been forwarded to AWC at Church House.

Charity of the Year 2014 -2015

contact a family
for families with disabled children

Our charity of the year 2014/15 is Contact-A-Family - Ealing and Southall Branch - a charity that supports families with disabled children.

Envelopes will be in the pews for December 14th for those who wish to make monetary donations - Gift Aid forms included.

Christmas Gifts Service

For the Christmas Gifts Service the charity has supplied me with a list of items they require for their children's Christmas Party. Of course we will not be expected to supply all the items, and others will be contributing, but if everyone could give something the charity would be most grateful.

CD player for tombola,
35 gifts from £1 to £5 for tombola
5 packs of colouring pencils, 5 colouring books

From Pound Shop:

80 gifts for ages 10-25yrs (40 girls, perfumes) (40 boys, aftershave)
70 gifts for ages 5-10 (colouring activity sets) (35 girls, 35 boys)
40 gifts, unisex for 2-5 years (puzzles)
15 gifts unisex for babies 0-3 years old
Decorations for hall and tree, tinsel
30 rolls of wrapping paper-10 for girls,10 for boys,10 unisex
3 packets of Sellotape, 2 packets of Blotak
200 Christmas crackers
3 packets of black bags
350 disposable (5 section) plates
200 disposable teacups, 500 drinks cups
350 spoons, 500 napkins
400 round plates - 200 small, 200 large,
4 rolls of table cover (25 metres)

Many thanks.
Olwen Britton



Thank You

Dear Friends,
We had a wonderful Remembrance Church Parade at Kingsdown on Sunday 9th November.

The sun shone, the worship was uplifting and the Boys were simply excellent.

To see a short video of the BB's activities please follow either of these links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/10thEalingBB>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOcMZIK0ACo>

Kind regards,
Tony Plews
Company Captain

Harvest Appeal - Ealing Food Bank



I am pleased to report that £55 was raised for the Ealing Food Bank in monetary donations at the Harvest Appeal. £35 of this amount was Gift Aided.

Methodist Homes



I am also pleased to report that we raised £404.35p at the recent Methodist Homes Appeal - £319.35p from the book fair and £85 from the envelope appeal (£65 of which was Gift Aided). We enjoyed a most stimulating service taken by Rev Eric Thorn (MHA Chaplain at Wembley) who gave us some facts we didn't know about Methodist Homes, in particular that they have branched out by setting up a home at Oxford for young people. I know you will remember Eric and his wife Mimi in your prayers, especially as his mother died the day after he took our service.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with these Appeals.

Olwen Britton

Property Committee



Just to keep you in the picture on the activities and responsibilities of the Church Property Committee

The Committee consists of: Rev Rachel Bending; Janet Smith; Sue Garland; Kath Jarrett; Dave Lewis; Les Goodchild; Steve Smith; Derek Matthews; Kevin Lovell.

We meet regularly to discuss Property matters, and any major problems or large expenditure issues will then be taken to the Church Council.

We are all "busy" little bees. Our work is not just meetings and discussions, but everyone is involved in work around the Church. For example if a light bulb needs replacing, it is identified and then generally rectified by one of the Committee. Problems such as damage to the property; plumbing, heating and general maintenance come under the auspices of the Property Committee.

So this time of the year it is right to say "thank you" to all the members of this Committee. For clearing out rubbish, minute taking, small decorations, repairs and much more. Without them the Church would not look as good as it does.

Anyone can join the Property Committee; if you feel so motivated let Rachel or Janet know. You are more than welcome.

THANK YOU ALL
Janet Smith

A CHANCE TO SAY 'THANK YOU'

Our Minister, Rachel, has suggested that we introduce a regular page in **The Messenger** through which people might express their appreciation for particular kindnesses shown them, or voluntary tasks carried out, perhaps by members of the Kingsdown family, possibly neighbours, or even strangers in the street, on the bus, or in the shops - Samaritans come in many shapes and sizes. We can only do this with your help - do provide us with your own experiences on a regular basis.

Pam & Alan (Editors)

KINGSDOWN CLUB PROGRAMME

FOR

JANUARY to APRIL

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.

6th JANUARY
A BINGO and quiz AFTERNOON

20th JANUARY
PIANO PLAYTIME and QUIZ with
ROB CUNNINGTON

3rd FEBRUARY
ENTERTAINMENT with LYNDA SILK

17th FEBRUARY
THE THEATRE
a talk by JONATHAN FRYER

3rd MARCH
THE CAROLINERS SING for US

17th MARCH
THE REMINISCENCE ROAD SHOW

7th APRIL
DAVE ENTERTAINS

21st APRIL
A.G.M and BINGO

NEW PROGRAMME STARTS 5th MAY



1. RICHMOND PARK SPONSORED WALK

I expect you read Janet's report of the walk round Richmond Park in the November Messenger?

Janet, June, Rita and Violet raised £333.00 - an excellent result. They had a wonderful time, and it was good to know that Janet soon recovered from her fall. Very many thanks to Janet, June, Rita and Violet.

2. ADVENT HOPE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This appeal will be held at St Mary's, Kensington High Street, on Thursday 4 December at 7 pm. It will be led by Christian Aid's CEO - Loretta Mingella, and will be a wonderful evening of music, carols and readings. There will be contributions from Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Chaplain to the House of Commons), Grace Davidson (soprano), Nigel Short and the Tenebrae Choir. The service is arranged in partnership with the Church Times.

The service is in aid of the Christmas appeal, which is for maternal and child health projects in Kenya and Malawi, and - GOOD NEWS - the UK Government will match, pound for pound, to a total of £5 million, every donation made to Christian Aid for this appeal between 7 November and 6 February 2015. I have some special envelopes and will put them in the church foyer, but if you can't find them, please let me know. Tickets are needed for the service, but they are FREE. This Act of Worship will be followed by a festive Fair Trade reception.

3. A GOSPEL CHRISTMAS - 2014

An evening of carols, gospel music and poetry will be held on Saturday, 13 December 7 to 10 pm at the CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct. Four Gospel Choirs will be taking part. Tickets are £12.00 and all proceeds will go the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal, so if you enjoy Gospel Music, this is your chance of a great evening.

No space for a poster on the Church Foyer notice boards, so you will find a poster on a cupboard door.

4. SUPPORTERS DAY - 30 JANUARY 2015

We shall be able to attend either an afternoon or evening session as usual, and full details will be found on the January Church Notices.

Christian Aid Week 2015 will focus on ETHIOPIA and a visit in preparation for 2015 was made by Eleanor Ledesma, CA Week Manager, and 2014/15 interns, Nonki and Sarah. The sessions, are open to all, no just collectors!

Ruby Warne

BOX IN CHURCH FOYER

Very many thanks for the stamps, socks, mobile phones and ink jets, and specs. These have been passed on to the various charities. I know they appreciate them and are grateful to the Kingsdown congregation.

Christmas is coming, so I hope to find a very large number of stamps in January! And perhaps you will receive a new mobile phone for Christmas? Please remember the box if you do!

The Box has had a good year! Please keep it up.

Ruby Warne

ANOTHER GOOD READ FOR DARK EVENINGS



David Dickinson (not the antique dealer) has written a series of mystery stories set in the late 1900's - early 2000 Century. They took Pishanger by storm a few years ago, with a waiting list at the library! Two titles are "Goodnight Sweet Prince" and "Death on the Jubilee", plus others. All are available at the library.

Mary Osborne

The Snow man



*I made myself a snow man, as perfect
as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet and let
it sleep with me.
I made it some pyjamas and a pillow
for its head,
And then last night it ran away, but
first it wet the bed.*



Methodist
relief and
development

A Christmas Gift for Life

A gift for life

Anghou Glory lives in Munyenge, Cameroon. She used to juggle working as a labourer on other people's farms with selling rice and vegetables at her roadside stall. Now Anghou no longer has to work both jobs to support her three children.



With the help of All We Can's partner NADEV, Anghou has received a loan to expand her business into a permanent shop.

She has also received training on how to develop good relationships with her customers, which has increased her regular customers.

Her income has doubled!

This Christmas a gift of £12 would make an extraordinary difference to a widow like Anghou, providing her with training on how to run a small business.

Purchase a practical present from the Extraordinary Gift Catalogue in last months Messenger or on line at

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/extraordinary-gifts/extraordinary-gifts>



Methodist
relief and
development

Partner Exchange Visits

Partner exchange visits

Following feedback from our partners, we established The Network Challenge Fund, supporting partner organisations to undertake their own exchange visits and share good practice.

All We Can Programmes Team Leader Nick Burn comments: "Past experience has shown that exchange visits are a rich learning experience. They give staff invaluable insight into how another organisation has addressed issues they themselves face. They can explore how to tackle these practically, hear about the problems they may encounter and how to overcome them.

In February 2013, staff members from our partner CDVTA travelled to Uganda to visit our partner VAD for a six day exchange visit. VAD's experience in water and sanitation provision was of great interest to CDVTA who have just begun to work in this way with primary schools, local communities and the elderly.

Similarly CDVTA's advocacy strategy in support of elderly rights and social mobilization in Cameroon has been very successful and this was one of the main areas of shared learning.

The experiences and skills we have learnt, have made us more humble, more encouraged and more determined to serve our poor, disadvantaged elderly people and communities better than we did before. - Francis Njuakom Nchii, Director of CDVTA

For more information of current activities and how the emergency appeals are working visit

Allwecan.org.uk

Methodists fight Ebola – and offer this prayer

The current outbreak in West Africa is the worst Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976. The Methodist Church in Sierra Leone (MCSL) has been at the forefront of the fight against Ebola. To date, the Methodist Church in Britain has sent two grants totalling £22,500 to Sierra Leone to aid with the epidemic.

The Ebola virus was also the focus of a prayer now offered by the Methodist Church. It is for use for anyone who is praying for people affected by the virus.

O Lord, God of our salvation, we have cried out day and night before you.

Let our prayers come before you; incline your ear to our cry.

For our souls are full of troubles and our lives draw near to the grave.

We are counted with those who go down to the pit; like people with no strength,

Give ear, O Lord, to our prayers and attend to the voice of our supplications.

In the day of trouble we will call upon you, for you will answer us.

Preserve our lives, for you are our God; save your servants who trust in you!

Be merciful to us, O Lord, for you are good and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon you.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen

KINGSDOWN BOOK FAIRS

Book Fairs were started many years ago by Alan Thompson (some will remember him?). Alan wanted to help local charities, as well as church ones. He was very interested in the World Church (Overseas Missions then), and was JMA secretary for many years. He was also a keen supporter of Christian Aid and Methodist Homes and we continue to support these charities today.

Our Book Fairs are well supported and appreciated by the local community and, since the Gazette has been free, people come from further afield. I am asked frequently "Why don't you stay open longer?", Or "Why can't you hold them more frequently?!". We have six each year - if more helpers were available, maybe we would!

We can always use another pair of hands, but our greatest need at present is for two or three people - strong, young and middle-aged men, who would help to put the books away after the fair on Saturday mornings, from 12.30 pm to about 1.15 pm. Do you know of anyone who might help? If so, please let me know.

At least three notice boards we use in Northfield Avenue to advertise our Book Fairs on the day have DISAPPEARED! If there is anyone who could help with new boards? Unfortunately we don't have any funds in the WMSC. (Our banner was donated by a member of the WMSC.) Again, if you can help please let me know.

DATES OF BOOK FAIRS - 2015

14 February
14 March
9 May
4 July
26 September
31 October.

Ruby Warne

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. (John Glenn)

SPECIAL POEM FOR OLDER FOLKS

A row of bottles on my shelf, Caused me to analyze myself.

One yellow pill I have to pop, Goes to my heart so it won't stop.

A little white one that I take, Goes to my hands so they won't shake.

The blue ones that I use a lot, Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.

The purple pill goes to my brain, And tells me that I have no pain.

The capsules tell me not to wheeze, Or cough or choke or even sneeze..

The red ones, smallest of them all, Go to my blood so I won't fall.

The orange ones, very big and bright, Prevent my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills, Helping to cure all kinds of ills.

But what I'd really like to know.....Is what tells each one where to go!

LAUGH A LITTLE EVERY DAY....

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it.

Submitted by Janet Smith

Loving Lord

Loving Lord, you wanted to show us yourself in a way we could easily grasp. So you literally gave us a touching word, a human word, a word who is the Word, a Word made flesh, a Word who could be touched and who could enable us all to be more in touch with you and with one another.

Loving Lord, you wanted to show us the sort of God you are, a God of vulnerability, a God of compassion, a God of understanding, a God of gentleness and patience, a God who knows from the inside the joys and sorrows that we humans enjoy and undergo. Loving Lord, you gave us Jesus, to be seen, to be touched, to be looked at, to be listened to, to give us a true pattern of how to be and become ever more truly human beings.

Loving Lord, you took such a wondrous risk, entering into our human adventure. You specially chose a teenager who lived at the back of beyond. You enabled her in her fear and her puzzlement to say “Yes” to welcoming you, to wombing you, to birthing you in poverty. And you blessed Mary with a wonderful man, Joseph, who fostered you with both awesome reverence and care.

Loving Lord, we all know the story. It trips easily off our tongues. But we need to stop, we need to look, we need to listen more deeply, so that we can enter into this wondrous mystery and scandal of a human God. Loving Lord, as we celebrate Christmas and enter into the New Year, give each and every one of us a growing gift of touch. Grace us with the touch of Jesus, so that those whose lives we’re privileged to touch each day may notice the practical difference being friends and followers of Jesus makes in our daily lives.

Loving Lord, you are Word for our world, you are ever more relevant in our one world where so many of our sisters and brothers are treated as less than human. Help us to become your touching word.

© Denis Blackledge SJ

With acknowledgement to ACE Forum

Could you write a prayer for the Methodists?



The Methodist Prayer Handbook comes out every year and includes prayers for Methodist districts and projects around the world. The editor is always looking for new writers of general prayers for the Handbook. The 2015/2016 Handbook Pilgrims on a Journey will look at God's call to pilgrimage, both journey and destination, our companions on the way and the everyday realities of the road to heaven. The title comes from the second verse of the hymn 'Brother, sister, let me serve you', by Richard A. M. Gillard (StF 611).

Prayers should be no longer than 12 lines or 120 words long. Deadline for submission is 12th January 2015. More details can be found at <http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/prayerhandbook> please submit your prayer to primi@quantrillmedia.com.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer turns 75

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, a stock character in extra-biblical Christmas stories, is younger than you might think. He did not come on the Christmas scene until December 1, 1939 – 75 years ago.

His first appearance was in a children's colouring book written by Robert May and given away by Montgomery Ward stores in the USA. The illustrator had to fight for him because the store owners were worried that the red nose might be associated with drunkenness.

The story of Rudolph is one of triumph over adversity: Rudolph, who was initially scorned by his fellow-reindeers, was chosen by Santa to haul the sleigh because his nose lit the way on a dark night. The story was so appealing that it spawned a hit song, written by Johnny Marks, brother-in-law of Rudolph's creator. Gene Autry's recording of it sold 25 million.

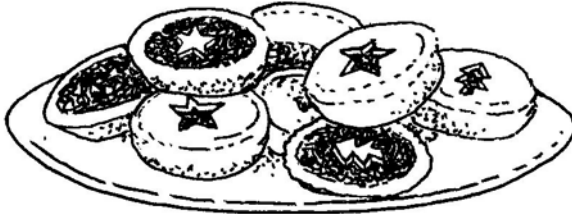
Preachers have found elements of discrimination, epiphany, redemption and mercy in Rudolph's story. Dutch scientists in 2012 found reindeers do have red noses, or at least a dense network of blood vessels which "help to protect them from freezing during sleigh rides and to regulate the temperature of the reindeer's brain – factors essential for flying reindeer pulling a sleigh under extreme temperatures".

Christmas: a good time for granny to teach you to bake?

Grandparents are taking action. More and more they are stepping into the gap to teach their gadget-obsessed grandchildren some good old-fashioned traditional skills.

It seems that almost a third of grandparents are teaching children to cook and bake, and nearly a quarter are showing their grandchildren how to garden. One in 10 is teaching sewing or knitting, as well as DIY or decorating. Grandparents are also teaching 'life essentials' such as reading and writing.

Children today may be technologically advanced, but as an expert at the consumer analyst Mintel explains: "they are often behind in terms of basic household skills, such as cooking, cleaning, mending and simple home improvements. However, grandparents are stepping in and supporting their grandchildren's development." So – why not encourage the grandparents and grandchildren to try a new project this Christmas?



Help with technical gadgets



If you are middle-aged and given a mobile phone or tablet this Christmas, take heart: almost any six-year old will be able to help you learn to use it.

According to a recent report by Ofcom, people's ability to cope with gadgets and new technologies peaks at the age of 15, and then drops gradually until their late 50s. After 60, their confidence and understanding of technology drops rapidly.

Even so, the report found that for all ages, "the convenience and simplicity of smartphones and tablets are helping us cram more activities into our daily lives."

What will you wear on Christmas Day?

Last year, it seems that more than a quarter of us spent the day in our pyjamas, while only a small minority of us 'dressed up' in any way.

These were the findings of M&S, who also report that nearly half of us dig out 'novelty items', such as Christmas tree or reindeer jumpers, to wear on the big day.

Those Christmassy novelty items may as well be worn on Christmas Day – 65 per cent of us get rid of them soon afterwards.



*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

Part 12 of 12 : THE GREAT WAR: AND THE CONSEQUENCE WAS.....



THE GREAT WAR

Some of you will remember the old party game of 'Consequences'. Armed with pencil and paper participants added various steps to a sequence of risible events, culminating in the requirement to answer this question: 'And the consequence was?' Well, mostly that was another laugh, but in real life consequences of our actions are not always funny, and sometimes they are disastrous. The world is full of unexpected consequences, personal, social and political.

That seems to be the story of the end of the Great War. The guns fell silent on November 11th 1918, but the consequences of that appalling conflict have rumbled and echoed on through the history of Europe ever since. The problems seem to have stemmed from the 'peace process' itself. After the Armistice, there were months of negotiations culminating in the Treaty of Versailles, which was finally signed on the 29th of June 1919.

The conditions of the Treaty, largely dictated by the victorious Allies of course, were intended to ensure that Germany would be in no position in the foreseeable future to embark on

m i l i t a r y 1914 - 1918
aggression.

Kaiser Wilhelm was to go into exile. The German army was to be limited to 100,000 men, with no artillery, tanks or aircraft and her navy reduced to only eight sea-going ships - with no submarines. The Rhineland would be occupied by the Allies for fifteen years and Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France.

Other parts of Germany were ceded to Poland and all the overseas territories were shared between the Allies. Probably worst of all were the swinging financial reparations which Germany had to pay for the damage she had inflicted on Belgium, France and elsewhere. Effectively, the German economy was left in ruins.

Very soon, this led to the collapse of the Deutschmark. Hyperinflation followed in the early years of the nineteen-twenties. By 1923 a loaf of bread cost two billion marks! The week's pay devalued overnight and families were literally starving. Not surprisingly there was public disorder and strikes, and America - the only major economy to survive the war unscathed - felt bound to

come to her rescue, pumping money into the German economy.

best to eliminate the Jewish people altogether.

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 put an end to that, paving the way for an unscrupulous and ambitious politician called Adolf Hitler to offer an authoritarian way out - National Socialism, as he called it. Singling out the German Jews as 'the problem' - he'd learnt that tactic 20 years earlier in his native Austria - the hideous era of the Hitler Youth, the Nuremberg Rallies, Kristallnacht and Belsen began. Hitler built the autobahns and made the trains run on time, but he also prepared a whole nation for war and did his

And the consequence was? Well, take your choice, but the Second World War is the most obvious, and the mass emigration of Jews to their old homeland was another. There was, perhaps, a better consequence, too. At the end of World War II Churchill demanded 'Unconditional Surrender' by the Axis powers, but he also counselled 'magnanimity in victory'. The lesson of 1919 had been learnt. Germany and Japan were defeated, but not humiliated, and the world now is a rather safer place . . . as a consequence.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

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.

A bad attitude is like a flat tyre - you'll get nowhere until you change it.



ANGELS

We hear a lot about angels at Christmas. A lot of the carols we sing have angels in them – like 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night'.

Angels are God's messengers and you can read about the good news they brought to the shepherds in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 8-20.

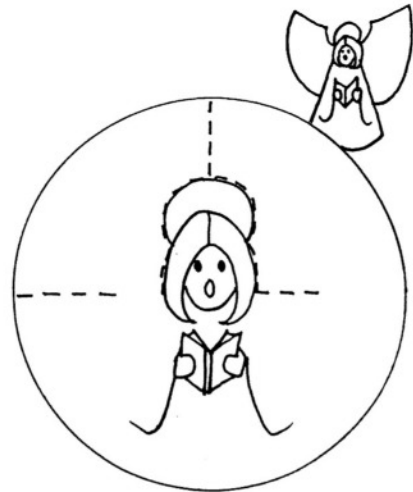
MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS ANGEL

You can make a whole host of angels, one for the top of the tree and a row of them, all different sizes, to go on a windowsill. To alter the size simply draw a bigger or smaller circle, you could use a dinner plate or a small tin to draw round. You could even make a giant angel using a dustbin lid!

You will need:

Scissors, thick white paper or thin white card, some felt tip pens and something circular to draw round (use a small plate or saucer to start with).

- Draw a circle on the paper and cut it out. Mark the centre of the circle (lightly fold it into quarters to find the centre).
- Copy the face and features on to the circle and colour them in.
- Mark the dotted lines and cut around them and around the halo and hair as marked.
- Fold the angel into a cone by putting one wing over the other and slotting them together. A little piece of sellotape will hold it firmly.



How do angels greet each other?

They say,
Halo.



What do fish sing at Christmas?

Shark, the herald angels sing.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

DECEMBER

- Mon 1 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 2 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - A talk by Rev Peter Catford
- Wed 3 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
7 pm Youth Group - Upper Foyer
- Thu 4 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 5 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 6 10.30 am Coffee & Chat in the Foyer - Everyone welcome
- Tue 9 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 16 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Christmas Tea Party - Dave Entertains

Suns 7, 14 and 21 Night Shelters at Kingsdown

JANUARY 2015

- Tue 6 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club resumes with A Bingo and quiz
afternoon
- Tue 20 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Piano Playtime and Quiz
with Rob Cunnington

Vision Days have been fixed for
18 January and 15 February after Morning Service



Pam and Alan will be sending a donation to All We Can in lieu of Christmas cards to all our friends at Kingsdown and take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the festive season.