



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



Blessed
is the one who
comes in the name
of the LORD!

Psalm 118:26-27 Matthew 21:8-9

April 2015



SERVICES FOR APRIL



MAUNDAY THURSDAY - 2 April
GOOD FRIDAY - 3 April

EASTER DAY

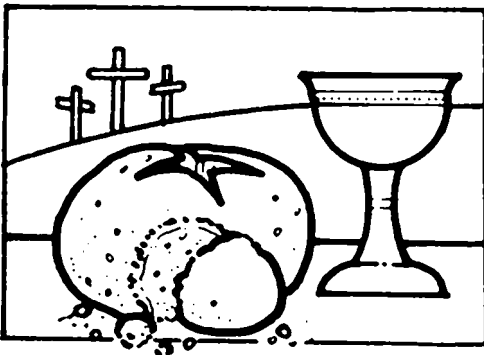
5 Apr 08.00 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion



12 Apr 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending with Worship Leader

19 Apr 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford.
(Followed by Vision Meeting - bring some lunch)

26 Apr 10.30 Mr David Richards



Happy Easter
to all
our readers

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the May 2015 issue is Friday 24 April 2015

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Dear friends,

It feels hard to write a letter most of you will read after Easter Sunday from within Lent. As I write I am finishing planning for the circuit's series of services for Holy Week during which we will travel through foot washing and Holy Communion, on to prayer and watching, to arrest, trial, denial and crucifixion. I am struck, as I am at this point in every year, by the conflicting need to stay with the story and the present and the need to look forward and plan for Easter and its resurrection.

It is a tension I see in the natural world as plants that look like dead twigs begin to build up the strength to burst from bud into leaf. If I look carefully at the plum trees on my patio I see the ends of the branches are not just the sleeping growth of last year but also the buds of this spring waiting to create flowers and fruit.

The tension fills the gospels. In John's Gospel, as Jesus teaches and talks of the death that is to come and agonises over it (chapter 12 onwards), the Gospel writer also refers to resurrection and ascension. For John's Gospel the three are inseparable from each other and from Jesus' identity - Jesus must travel through all three to be the Christ. From the very opening words "In the beginning was the word..." the Gospel writer holds the tension of a birth that requires a death and a death completed and redeemed in resurrection and ascension.

If we reflect on our lives the tension of living in the shadow of death and the hope of the resurrection is one we too are familiar with. The funeral prayer asks that we might live as people prepared for death. We mourn losses and grieve and celebrate new life each day in the large and the small - the beautiful sight you turn to share only to realise the person you wish to share it with is no longer there, the realisation that the abilities of our past have gone but the recognition of the riches of today. In all of life we live in the tension of the now and the not yet, of death and life, of scarcity and plenty.

Many of you will know that Jill Ward is moving with her husband, Roy, to be nearer her daughter. She has worked tirelessly in the Sunday School and with the Babies and Toddlers Group for more years than I can count with

Roy quietly offering huge support in setting up and packing away! Even as she packs to move she has also been making sure that there are plenty of picture stories, carefully organised for the Sunday School. I'm sure you will join me in wanting to let her know how much she will be missed and how much all she has done has been appreciated. Her final Sunday with us is likely to be Easter Sunday - a very appropriate day for the start of a new phase in life!

May God bless you this Easter with comfort and strength for the places of pain and loss and with the abundant life of resurrection .

Love

Rachel

FAMILY NEWS

Eileen and Dave Tobias recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and, to mark the occasion, Eileen was presented with a plant and card at Kingsdown's Morning Service on Sunday, 9 March.

Eileen writes: Dear Kingsdown Friends, Thank you so much for the beautiful hydrangea plant, which you gave to Dave and myself, at the service on 9th March on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

It was a lovely surprise, and thank you to everyone who gave us flowers, gifts and cards; they were all lovely and very much appreciated.

Dave and I thoroughly enjoyed our wedding anniversary celebrating with family. Thank you once again."

Annegret Mathews has kindly written a full report about her five weeks in Sierra Leone which is enclosed as a Special Supplement to this issue.

The funeral of **Pam Carpenter** took place at Breakspear Crematorium on Wednesday 18 March 2015. We send condolences to her husband **Bernard** and their family and ask you to remember them in your prayers.



Another occasion for celebration was the 80th birthday of Dr Kofie Laing on 15 March.

Dr Laing and his wife Grace are more recent worshippers at Kingsdown and are pictured here cutting a beautiful cake shared by all after Morning Service.



We are sad to report the passing of Mrs Gwen Girdwood, wife of ex-Captain Mr Charles Girdwood. She passed peacefully at home and, although she had been unwell for a couple of years, was still able to regularly attend her local church to worship.

Many will remember Gwen as the Brown Owl at Kingsdown in the 1970s and during that decade she and Charles were stalwart workers among the youth of Northfields, Charles stepping in as Captain following the sudden passing of Mr Joe Yates in December 1976.

They are pictured here on their wedding day on 8th September 1974 (with Mr Graham Pike leading a BB guard of honour, naturally). The Girdwoods left Ealing in 1979 due to work commitments but both are remembered with great fondness by their many Kingsdown friends. Sure and Steadfast.



Tony Plews

Travelling through Holy Week within our Circuit

An exciting, thoughtful and meaningful set of services has been planned for each night in Holy Week travelling across the Circuit. You can join all of the services, or to come to one or two as you are able.

Monday 30th March Acton Hill 7.00pm

A Quiet Reflective Service including the Washing of Feet

Tuesday 31st March Pitshanger 7.00pm

A Shared Meal - please bring food to share

Wednesday 1st April Ealing Green 7.00pm

A Quiet Service reflecting on Gethsemane

Maundy Thursday 2nd April Hanwell 7.00pm

A dramatic Service focussing on Jesus' arrest and trial

Outside Kings Hall, Southall 8.30pm

Around the fire - meditating on Peter's denial

Good Friday 3rd April *earlier events below

1.00pm - 3.00pm **Hamborough School, Southall** - Stations of the Cross (Urdu/Hindi)

3.00pm **Kingsdown** – A reflective service for Good Friday

3.00pm **Greenford** – A reflective service for Good Friday

***Ealing Churches Good Friday Passion 2015**

Please note that this Good Friday 3rd April, instead of joining in two separate Walks which converge at Christ the Saviour, all churches are asked to meet on Haven Green for 9.55am.

Our joint Good Friday Witness will be centred round the "Ealing Passion" written and produced by Ann Clifford. This simple visualisation of the events of the crucifixion will be an exciting and new way of seeking to come together as Christ's Church in Ealing and witness to God's love at work in Jesus, on a busy bank holiday in our town centre.

10am The Gathering:

There will be hymns/songs, readings and prayers from 10-10.15am. Please assemble on Haven Green by 9.55am.

10.15am The Procession:

Some people will go direct to Ealing Broadway to line the streets, everyone else will follow the lead of a small group of soldiers surrounding Jesus carrying his cross. This group will lead the walk onto The Broadway at the pedestrian crossing just south of the roundabout and proceed to the grounds of Christ the Saviour Church.

10.45am The Re-enactment:

In the grounds of Christ the Saviour there will be a re-enactment of the gospel events of the crucifixion, including a choir. There will be two songs all gathered can join in with.

11.15am The dismissal

The event will conclude at approximately 11.15am where those gathered and passers-by will be invited to share in eating bread as a symbol of God's love for the world embodied in Christ.

As this is a very different sort of event than that held in previous years we are asking Churches not to bring banners, large crosses or individual Palm crosses as we would like the focus to remain on the figure of Jesus.

(Please note that members of Kingsdown have been asked by the organisers to join in the main procession rather than lining the streets.)

The aim of this event is to:

- *Provide a more visual, engaging and thought provoking witness to Jesus' crucifixion than purely a word based message.*
- *To help people feel something of the force of what happened to Christ on Good Friday and through that to encourage people to reflect on the significance of Jesus' death and if minded to do so, come to a Church Service on Easter Day.*
- *To provoke interest in Good Friday through a dramatic re-enactment of the events of the crucifixion which will draw people into this community event.*

WANTED - URGENTLY - BAYING CROWD!

Dear all,

As you may know, the Circuit have this year come together to produce a number of services across Holy Week to help us have a deeper understanding of what happened between that exciting Palm Sunday to the horrors of Good Friday and then the pure joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

One of the services, on Maundy Thursday, will include a dramatisation of the trial of Jesus, which will take place at Hanwell Methodist at 7pm and probably be over by 8pm so that those who want to can move on to Southall for a meditation on Peter's denial

This is a call for help with that Hanwell production!

We need some strong voices to be part of the baying crowd. At most there would be a couple of individual lines to be said but they can be read with script in hand so no need to learn anything - just an abundance of enthusiasm required !

If you would like to be part of this, and/or know anyone else who might be, please let me know and I can send you a copy of the script. It would be good to get at least one rehearsal in beforehand but that will depend on participants' availability.

I hope you are free. It would be so good to have you on board.

Many thanks,

Rekha Cheriyan

MWiB Daffodil Day, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster



On Monday, 2 March, along with a few other members and friends, I attended this year for the first time. The theme of the service was 'flowers'.

There were rousing hymns, wonderful music, excellent speakers and entertainers. A truly joyous way to welcome the return of Spring!

Gwen Goodchild

Kingsdown Awayday

7 March 2015

It's almost a year since our first 'Awayday' in April 2014, and it was good to gather again to think about where we're going as a church. Wendy Beard, one of the Regional Development Officers and Rachel, our minister did an excellent job of leading the day building on the results of last year's 'Awayday' and the two 'vision' sessions we've held since Christmas.

We spent some time in groups of three talking firstly about our 'faith stories' – how we came to be Christians and how we came to be part of Kingsdown. It's not often that we have the chance to talk together in that way and I'm sure we all find it quite revealing. As we meet Sunday by Sunday we seldom

have time to talk about our 'faith journeys' so it was good to get to know more about at least a couple of people.



We then discussed in our small groups how we imagined the churches Paul wrote to in his letter to the Romans might have reacted to what he had to say. This was followed by thinking about how the same considerations might apply to Kingsdown today. We talked a lot, went off at tangents but again it was quite revealing about what we each thought and felt.

Towards the end of the day I was asked if the results of the process so far were as I had expected when I first proposed having an Awayday to the Church Council. In truth, I have never quite known what to expect from the process, although



I was certainly not expecting that we'd end up with a clearly articulated fixed statement of 'vision' or 'mission'. We are on a journey together and 'vision', or maybe 'visions' will emerge as time goes by depending on how we respond to the process and the things we become involved in whether they be Lent Zones, Bible study, the

Night Shelter or whatever. Of one thing I am certain, however – we cannot stay still. Unless we accept that as a church we must respond and develop in the light of the changes going on all around us, we will gradually slip away.

Gerald Barton



Photo: Alan Smith

AWAY DAY - A SHORT REFLECTION

The Away day was a chance to reflect on our spirituality as Christians and why we assemble at church on a Sunday.

The passage we reflected upon started like this ...Romans 12 (Message version) – So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Reflecting on the above it reminded us that we as human beings generally do the same things universally on a daily basis, whatever be our background and our upbringing. Therefore as Christians we are asked to focus on God and not get caught in the trappings of the prevalent culture of society which brings with it the judgements, yardsticks and 'success and failure clauses'. It is the nature of society with such yardsticks that label us, put us on a pedestal or bring us down, create divisions, or enable us to judge others through our own quirky glasses.

We live in a society full of economical and social yardsticks. This passage however reminds us to focus our thoughts on God and His spirit within us. As the spirit departs, so does the human body become lifeless, despite all its efforts to stay alive. If the spirit of God does not move within us, we become lifeless as far as spiritual growth is concerned. For it is the Holy spirit that moves and transforms and it is not influenced by what happens outside. So once again as individuals and as a church body we are reminded to put the horse before the cart and focus on spiritual growth and then the rest will follow automatically. That is the miracle that the Bible has been trying to teach us all these years. In Christ we are united and made whole, despite all our shortcomings.

Tom Cheriyan



Vision Day

At the beginning of March a group of us spent a day together at The Royal Society of St Katharine's in Limehouse.

Together we thought about Some words from Romans chapter 12 and what they might mean for us at Kingsdown. As we met there was time to share our stories of how we came to be part of the Kingsdown family giving us a chance to get to know each other more deeply.

Below are some of the qualities which we felt should characterise us as God's people.

You are invited to bring some lunch and join in the conversation on 19th April after the service.

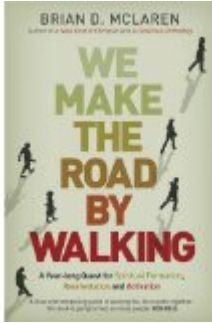


Photo: Alan Smith



Rachel

A year of Sundays



At our Church Council meeting we decided to use 'We make the road by walking' a book by Brian McLaren as a guide for our worship from September for a year. The book is divided into 52 chapters which follow through the church year from creation, through thinking about the promise of Jesus in Advent and Christmas, Jesus' ministry, life and death, our calling as disciples and the life of the Holy Spirit.

We will be asking our preachers and worship leaders to use the theme and reading for our Sunday worship and there will be opportunities for Bible study and discussion at other times.

Brian D. McLaren is an author, a speaker, an activist, and a public theologian. After teaching college English, Brian was a church planter and pastor in the Baltimore–Washington, D.C., area for over twenty years. He is a popular conference speaker and a frequent guest lecturer for denominational and ecumenical leadership gatherings in the United States and internationally, and is theologian-in-residence at Life in the Trinity Ministry.

Brian's writing spans over a dozen books, including *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?*, his acclaimed A New Kind of Christian trilogy, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, and *Naked Spirituality*. A frequent guest on television, radio, and news media programs, Brian is also an active and popular blogger, a musician, and an avid outdoor enthusiast. Brian is married to Grace, and they have four adult children. Learn more at his website, www.brianmclaren.net

If you would like to borrow a copy of the book to have a look, I have a number of copies and would love to lend them out and hear your ideas for next year.

God bless,

Rachel

News from around the Circuit

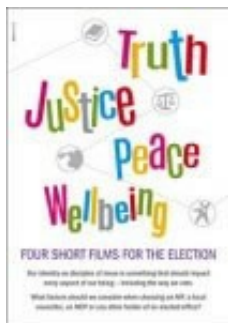
We have just approved a grant to fund an MHA live at home scheme in the circuit. More information from Olwen.

By the time you read this we will, hopefully have approved grants for:

- a schools worker in Southall in partnership with the local Anglican churches,
- a school holiday activity week at Northolt
- Building developments at Greenford which will enable exciting developments in their mission and ministry

Our deacon, Lemia, is recovering from an operation. Please remember her in your prayers.

Rachel



Love your neighbour: think, pray, vote

Our identity as disciples of Jesus is something that should impact every aspect of our being – including the way we vote. This [new resource](#) from the Joint Public Issues Team will help you and your church community to reflect on how being a follower of Jesus will affect your behaviour at election time.

Love your neighbour: think, pray, vote

offers four short videos on the themes of truth, justice, peace and well-being; prayers linked to these themes; postcards which link these themes to questions for hustings or for your own reflection; and four short Bible studies. This pack can be used during worship or to inform Bible-study and house groups.

[Available from Methodist Publishing](#) it costs £7.50 (plus postage and packing).

<http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/ab016-ct-15/love-your-neighbour>

10th Ealing Boys' Brigade News



On Saturday 21st March your Kingsdown Boys' Brigade Company launched into the very busy spring BB competition season with two major events held on the same day at the same venue.

Junior Section Drill

In the afternoon, we took a dozen smartly turned out Junior Boys to Watts Hall in Uxbridge to participate in the West London Junior Drill Competitions. There were two disciplines and we have a fine history in both: last year we finished a close-second in the overall Marching Competition and also came home with the Best Young Squad trophy. This year we came home with both trophies -- and we're the first Company to do this since we did it before, back in 2007. What a fantastic result!

A big Well Done to our Boys, and congratulations to Cpl Daniel Plews, Sgt Jonathan Lane and Mr Mark Tobias who trained the squad.





Company & Senior Gym

In the evening, six of our fittest young men arrived to play against other Companies in the London Vaulting Competition. We have only participated in this event for the past two years and we've always viewed it as a fun event, finishing fourth both times, but having a great time while doing so. Mr David Lane, our vaulting coach, offered the Boys support and encouragement as they flew over the horse, and we performed very well, moving up a notch to capture third place. When the marks were finally totted up, Cpl Daniel Plews was declared third best BB gymnast in London and was offered a place on the national gym team.

Parents were on hand for both events, cheering and clapping as the Boys did their utmost. It was a good day for the Boys of 10th Ealing BB

We now gird our loins for the London Band and Drill Competitions in April as we seek to defend our title of Best Band in London.

Why not follow our adventures on facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/10thEalingBB>

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2015 - 10 TO 16 MAY

In the March Messenger, I invited you to read the stories of Adi and Loko - two women in Ethiopia.

Christian Aid has worked in Ethiopia for more than 30 years, initially responding to emergencies, but gradually building a long-term development programme. Christian Aid's work has focused on ensuring people have enough to eat, a means of earning a living, healthcare, economic justice and energy, and are better able to cope with the effects of climate change.

One of Christian Aid's partners is HUNDEE, which works to bring change to the entire community. It helps the community to identify its poorest women, who it then supplies with cows and goats. This provides the women with an income, elevating their status. HUNDEE also sets up self-help groups for these women, which meet once a week, save a small amount of money, and borrow funds to start up small businesses. At the group meetings, the women also learn maths, literacy and about their rights.

In Southern Ethiopia, the Borena people suffer droughts, which means it is difficult to grow food. The communities rely on livestock, which gives status, as well as food and drink. Women work an 18 hour day and eat their food after the men and children; all survive on ONE meal a day.

It is traditional for girls to be married at 12-13 years of age; the girls' families receive from their husband, or their husbands' families, cows, sheep and goats.

Remember Adi - confident, strong and successful, and Loko - afraid, alone and in pain? And now some GOOD NEWS! This morning (Thursday), I 'phoned Julia at the Christian Aid London Team, and asked her a most important question! Had Loko received a cow? And, yes, she had - Christian Aid had received the GOOD NEWS LAST WEEK! We can imagine Loko's joy and hope for the future.

Arrangements are in hand for Christian Aid Week 10 to 16 May, and I'm extremely grateful to those who have indicated that they are willing to help again with House to House collecting and Flag Day - 16 May. I hope to contact all our previous supporters soon, but it would be great to see new faces.

On 9 May, we shall have our Annual Book Fair, with numerous stalls, and I'm in need of someone to take charge of the CAKE STALL (two friends are willing to assist). We shall also have gifts, bric-a-brac, a plant stall, and Traidcraft. If you can help in any way, please let me know.

DVDs and Christian Aid Week Daily Devotional Booklets are still available.

A Prayer from the 2015 Christian Aid Week Order of Service

Christian Aid Week Prayer

(From the Church in Ethiopia)

Let your hand rest upon your people of Ethiopia,
widows and orphans, aged and children,
strangers and wanderers.
And join us also with them,
protect and strengthen us, from all evil works keep us apart,
and in all good works unite us.
You are life for our souls,
You are the life of the world. **Amen**

Ruby Warne



Help the poor
help themselves



Methodist
relief and
development

VANUATU Cyclone Pam



Photo - ACT for Peace

All We Can has pledged its support after tropical Cyclone Pam hit the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu over the weekend, wiping out infrastructure and leaving thousands of people homeless.

Vanuatu is one of the world's least developed countries and highly vulnerable to natural disasters. It has a population of around 250,000 spread over 65 islands. Many of them are currently unreachable. At least eight people are currently reported to have been killed, but it is feared the death toll will rise sharply as rescuers reach outlying islands.

Vanuatu's President, Baldwin Lonsdale, who linked the cyclone to climate change, said that it had "wiped out" the development of recent years. The United Nations has stated that Cyclone Pam could be one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the Pacific.

All We Can is making an immediate initial grant of £10,000 for relief efforts through its emergency aid partner, the Act Alliance, and has opened an emergency appeal.



Methodist
relief and
development

VANUATU Cyclone Pam

This will help provide lifesaving services including shelter, food, medical assistance, water and sanitation.

We will be keeping the situation under review, as a longer term response may be required for rebuilding and re-establishing basic infrastructure, homes, schools and livelihoods.



Photo - ACT for Peace

Support All We Can's Vanuatu Emergency Appeal

Go to: <https://www.charitycheckout.co.uk/291691/vanuatu>

Your donation will provide lifesaving services to communities affected by the Cyclone.

If you would prefer to donate by telephone using a credit or debit card, call 020 7224 4814.

KINGSDOWN BABIES & TODDLERS

The group continues to operate well, with between 15 to 20 families attending.

On Friday, 27 February, past and present helpers gathered at Pam Smith's house for an informal farewell lunch for Jill and Roy Ward. A small gift of appreciation was given to Jill for all her dedicated efforts on the group's behalf over the past 14 years.

Happy Easter to everyone, and best wishes for the future to Jill and Roy when they move house in the near future.

Jill Richardson

Methodist churches to bring life and healing this Easter



The Methodist Church has announced that all of the funds raised in the 2015 Easter Offering will go towards the work of the Church's World Mission Fund, to support work with people all over the world.

More on:

<http://methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/methodist-churches-to-bring-life-and-healing-this-easter>

'Spring into Music' at Northolt

Northolt Methodist Church are holding a Musical Evening on Friday 10th April 2015 from 7.30 - 9.30pm. The music will be mostly 'home grown'.

We would love to see anyone from the Circuit who would like to join us. The event is to raise money for our church charity MIND.

Admission is free but with a ticket. We will ask for donations on the night. If you would like a ticket please contact: Jane Bennett on 01895 439302, or 07751 044402 or email: janebennett56@yahoo.co.uk.

One of the secrets of a long and fruitful life is to forgive everybody everything every night before you go to sleep.

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter – letter of thanks to Kingsdown



We have received the following letter from Alison Wood, the Project Co-ordinator of the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter thanking us for hosting the shelter which provided overnight accommodation and meals for up to 14 homeless people on four Sunday nights before last Christmas.

“On behalf of the trustees of Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter, I would like to thank everyone at Kingsdown Methodist Church for hosting the shelter before Christmas. This was particularly welcome as you agreed to step in at short notice when a previous venue was no longer available. We hope that it was a positive experience for everyone involved. We continue to see people’s lives transformed by our work, and are very grateful for your part in this.”

The letter also expressed the hope that Kingsdown would be willing to host the night shelter this coming winter to which request our Church Council has agreed in principle, subject to mutually convenient dates being agreed and sufficient volunteers forthcoming.

The beneficial impact of the night shelter on the lives of its homeless guests is evident in that almost all the guests towards the end of the winter were different from those who were with us at Kingsdown a few months ago. With guidance from the staff of St Mungos Broadway, a charity providing support to homeless people, many have managed to tackle ill-health, addictions and other personal problems and gone on to find suitable accommodation and employment or, in a few cases, returned to their original homes and families.

Another significant feature of the night shelter is the way it brings together volunteers from a variety of backgrounds, ages, different church denominations or no church allegiance. Some even come from outside the Ealing area but all are motivated to help provide practical help and fellowship to the guests. It is a great way in which churches’ facilities, such as ours at Kingsdown, now improved after our re-development, can be used for the benefit of our communities.

The reaction of one of the most committed volunteers at Kingsdown on learning that this was our first experience of hosting is instructive. A non-church goer herself she remarked that hosting the night shelter was “exactly what she expected churches should do”.

Sue Garland

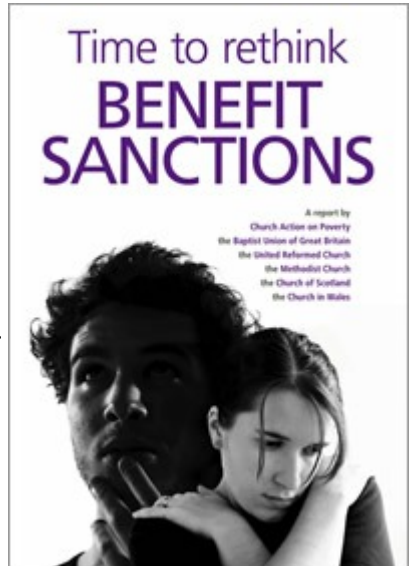


Rethink Sanctions

James (not his real name) found his life massively disrupted when his benefits were sanctioned: “During the first three weeks of my sanction I continued to look for work as I was required to. By the fourth week however I was exhausted, unwell and no longer had it in me. I was not eating as I had no food and was losing a lot of weight. I told the Job Centre I was unwell through not eating but was sanctioned for another three months for not looking for work properly.”

In 2014, one million benefit sanctions were imposed on people. This means their payments stopped for a period of between one month and three years. The most common reason for being sanctioned is being late or not turning up for an appointment.

The sanctions regime disproportionately affects young people, homeless people, young people leaving care, single parents, those with long term illness and mental health problems.



We are calling for a full and independent review of the regime – will you join us?

Why not write to your MP?

More information can be found at

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/resources/rethinksanctions/>

Then Darkness Fell over All the Land...



It was 1999. I was on a Summer camping holiday in Rattery, Devon. It was the day of the full solar eclipse (11th August) and I was in the 100% zone. It was an incredible experience – very different to the one just experienced on 20th March this year which, over London, was only a 90+% eclipse.

To get a better view, the campers climbed the steep hill next to the field in which we were camping – we thought we would be a little closer to the action! As the sun and the light disappeared it was an eerie feeling. There were no lights to be seen anywhere, the birds stopped singing and it was peaceful and dead quiet – except for ourselves, not a sound could be heard.

The light disappears quite slowly and we were surprised how, with such little sun left we could still see all around. Then in the last two minutes it was like someone turning down a dimmer switch to nothing and the lights just went out. We were on top of a hill and it was pitch black. Despite the excitement and the wonder of would it ever come light again, my thoughts turned to God.

“Then God made the Sun to rule over the day and the Moon to rule over the night. He placed the light to shine on the Earth and separated the light from the darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. (Genesis 1: 16-18). I just wondered for a moment in amazement at His creation.

I lit a hurricane lamp and my wife Marion held it up alongside her face. I took a photo. Her face was lit up but the background behind her was pitch black although it was meant to be rolling green hills. Another camper, a juggler, decided to juggle with some lighted fire sticks. It was an amazing experience and for me God was at the centre of it all.

After about three minutes the first glimmer of light appeared again as if by magic.

This year's solar eclipse on 20th March reminded me of it all – an experience I will never forget. The next full eclipse in England I believe will be on 23rd September 2090. It is a wonder of God's that I may only ever experience once – but a wonder that I will never forget.

Ray Garnett



Launch of the Churches Mutual Credit Union Ltd. (CMCU)

Church leaders including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and the President of the Methodist Conference, have welcomed their respective churches' recent collaboration in forming the flagship credit union.

The CMCU, which also includes the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Church in Wales, is now open for business, and offers a range of savings and loan products. At least 60,000 individuals, notably ordained ministers, licensed lay ministers, elders, employees and trustees of churches (e.g. Parochial Church Council members) and church charities are eligible to join, along with churches and Anglican and Church of Scotland charities as corporate members.

Archbishop Justin said: "Credit unions have the potential to make a transformative contribution to our financial system. I hope and expect that the experience of belonging to CMCU will encourage clergy and church workers to become increasingly effective advocates for credit unions in their communities."

Granddads: don't tell these jokes to your grandkids if you want to keep that 'cool dude' image...

*What did the Queen Bee say to the naughty bee?
Beehive yourself!*

*How do you make an apple puff?
Chase it round the kitchen!*

*Why don't bats live alone?
They like to hang around with friends!*

*Why do birds fly south in the winter?
Because it's too far to walk*



JESUS IS ALIVE!

Early on the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they reached the tomb it was open, the big stone that had sealed the entrance was rolled away - and it was empty! They thought that someone had stolen Jesus' body but an angel told Mary what had really happened, that Jesus was alive!

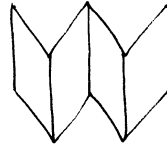
The disciples were all together when Mary arrived back with her news and told them what had happened, but they wouldn't believe her. They were confused and afraid. Sometimes we say 'I can't believe it' if someone tells us really good news. We say 'I'll believe it when I see it with my own eyes' and that is what the disciples said. And when they saw the risen Jesus they believed. Read about what happened that first Easter Day in the four Gospels. And what is the next thing that you do when you hear good news? You want to share it with someone else.

Share the Good News with someone this Easter!

SPREAD THE NEWS

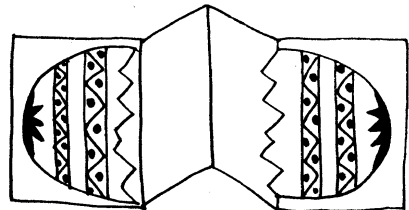
One way you can pass the good news on is to send Easter cards. You could make some of these easy Easter egg cards (the egg is a symbol of new life so that's why we have eggs at Easter). You will need

- a strip of thin card about 10cm by 30cm
- another piece of coloured card for the egg about 9cm by 12cm
- felt tip pens
- a ruler, scissors and a glue stick.



Fold the long strip of card in half and then each half back on itself to make a W shape.

Draw an egg shape on the coloured card and cut round it. Cut the egg in half with a jagged edge and stick it onto the folded card as shown. Decorate it and write your message inside - you could even draw a fluffy yellow chick inside the egg.



What is smooth, oval and very rich?

An eggstravaganza.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

APRIL

- Mon 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 7 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Dave entertains
- Wed 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
7 pm Youth Group - Upper Foyer
- Thu 9 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 10 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 11 10.30 am to 12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
- Tue 14 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Wed 15 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
- Tue 21 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - AGM and Bingo

MAY

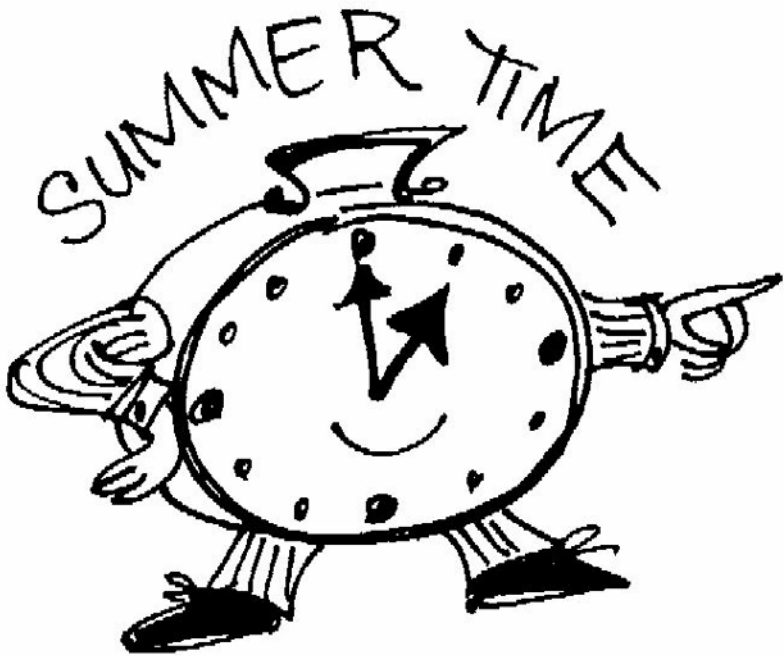
- 10 May - Annual General Meeting following Sunday morning service.
6.30 pm MWiB Easter Offering Service, Greenford



Churches Together in Ealing Ecumenical Visit to Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism

The next Churches Together in Central Ealing Ecumenical visit will be to Wesley's Chapel and house, and the Museum of Methodism. These are off City Road, near Old Street tube station. The visit will be on Saturday 25th April at 14.00.

If you would like to join the visit, please contact **Noreen Barnes-Hoggett**, noreen29@googlemail.com or tel 020 8997 4935 who will send details of where to meet and, hopefully a place where to share afternoon tea afterwards.



*The clocks go forward
1 hour at 1am on*

Sunday, 29 March, 2015

*The clocks go back
1 hour at 2am on*

Sunday, 25 October, 2015