



# KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



LENT



*February 2016*

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY



- 7 Feb 10.30 Dr Anita Oji
- 14 Feb 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family/Parade Service  
(First Sunday in Lent)  
6.00 Bible Study - 'We Make the Road by Walking'
- 21 Feb 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
- 28 Feb 10.30 Rev Peter Cafford  
6.00 Bible Study - 'We make the road by Walking'



*(The series of fortnightly Bible Studies based on 'We Make the Road by Walking' by Brian McLaren are continuing as above. All are welcome.)*



## Fairtrade Fortnight 29th February - 13th March



Martin Luther King famously once said: 'Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. And eating breakfast is just what Fairtrade Fortnight has in mind for you this year - the campaign hopes to get as many people as possible to eat a Fairtrade breakfast in their homes during the Fortnight.

As a spokesperson explains: "It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast. When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families." More details at: [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org)



Dear friends,

As we move through the period between Christmas and Lent Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, asks us to think about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of heaven and the ways in which Jesus taught and opened people's eyes to its possibilities and reality.

When you hear the phrase 'Kingdom of heaven' I wonder what comes immediately to mind. As you read this are you wondering if it will be another pious minister's letter concentrating on an hypothetical future other worldly event with no relevance to today? Do you feel warmed by the promise that no matter what happens in this world everything will be alright in the next? Do you hear a call to arms to work for God's life in the here and now?

In Mark's Gospel the early chapters seem to focus on a headlong rush through miraculous acts with the writer showing again and again how the text from Isaiah that Jesus reads in the synagogue in the other Gospels is coming true. The blind see, the deaf hear, women to ill to leave their beds get up healed and make the lunch. It's as if the gospel writer is saying 'here is God's kingdom' 'Here is heaven'. When we read of the Early Church in Acts we see another image of God's kingdom on earth as the church organises itself to look after the widow and the orphan, to share all they have, to heal, pray and worship.

So what about now? If people look for God's kingdom in Kingsdown and the community around us where can it be found? Where is compassion shown? Where are the vulnerable listened to and cared for? Where are all welcomed to be part of God's great commonwealth?

Look around you at the community activities and the love that is shown within them. Think of Babies and Toddlers, the fellowship on Tuesday afternoons, the night shelter, at the neighbours we support in loving conversations and the work done by each person day to day. What resounds with God's love? And what gets in the way of God's love?

In Lent this year let us try to open our eyes to God's kingdom within us and around us and let us abandon those things which get in its way. God bless.

*Rachel*

## **FAMILY NEWS**

**Leela John** writes - "I would like to thank my Kingsdown family for their thoughts, prayers and kind messages after I was taken ill at Christmas. Your love and concern was very much appreciated and meant a lot. Thank you and may God bless you all. **Leela x**"

*(Please keep Leela in your prayers on her road to recovery, as well as others you may know who are poorly at this time.)*

Its been good to see **Kathleen Loveridge** back with us following her stay in hospital in the New Year.

It seems that **Anna Marlow**, who went to visit her sister in the US over Christmas was unfortunate enough to have a fall whilst there, resulting in a broken shoulder. We send all good wishes to Anna for a speedy recovery.

Many at Kingsdown will have known **Nora** and **Sydney Wooldridge**, who worshipped for many years at Pitshanger, Sydney playing our organ on a number of occasions in the past. We recently learned that, due to increased frailty, they are both now residing in a care home in Essex near there daughter and family.

We were pleased that **Iris Sawyer** was in touch over Christmas wishing all her old friends a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Greetings were also received from the **Rev Sharon Smith** and members of the Kingsdown Afternoon Church, **David Richards** of Pitshanger, the **Rev David Holland**, a former minister at Kingsdown, and no doubt you will all have seen the card sent by **Graham Pike** to everyone at Kingsdown.

**Pam** and **Alan Smith** thank all those kind friends who sent them cards, which were much appreciated.

Your prayers are asked for the success of the 'Quiet Zone' project being set up in Northolt High School.

**The real art of conversation is to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.**

## Caring for each other



How much do you notice when you come to church on Sunday?

If asked could you name the people who are sitting around you each week? Do you remember who's there and who's missing?

Apart from being part of our general calling to be a friendly and welcoming family there are also important practical reasons why your awareness is vital. If you notice someone is missing, it may be that they are unwell and would appreciate a phone call or a visit. So why not pass the information on to Rachel or a steward. But also in the event of a fire or evacuation your knowledge of who was around you will help us make sure everyone is out of the building and safe.

So please help us care for each other and keep everyone safe.  
Thank you

*Rachel*

## **The Ealing Passion Play**

Advance information from the organiser, Ann Clifford - The Ealing Passion 2016 is getting underway. If anyone would like to get involved please email Ann Clifford [ann.dot@virgin.net](mailto:ann.dot@virgin.net) for the rehearsal dates.

## **For you if you aren't Facebook-friendly**

An elderly lady said she was trying to make friends outside of Facebook, while applying the same principles. She said, "Every day I walk down the street and tell the passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before, and what I will do tomorrow.

Then, I show them pictures of my family, my dog, my garden, where I've just been on holiday and how I spend time in my pool. I also listen to their conversations, and I tell them I love them all. And....it works! I already have four people "following" me - two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist!

## The 'Panto' Service

Whether I should call last year's nativity service that, I'm not sure, but it did have the fun of a 'panto'. Seated in the organ 'pit', it's not so easy to see what's going on, nor how many people are in church.



However, having piped up the introduction to the first hymn and with the organ stops set on a fairly loud but not completely full combination, I was struck by the sheer volume of sound coming at me when people started singing. It's quite a time since I heard that level of sound coming from the congregation! It may have helped that all the carols were projected onto the screen so people were singing up and out rather than down to their hymnbooks, but nonetheless, I can only conclude that the service pulled in a much larger than usual number of people, even for a family - nativity service.

The whole service was so successful that it left just one problem – how to top it this year!

**Gerald Barton**

**If you don't care about your body where will you live?**

# **The Psalms:** **Prayers for today`s church**

Praise and awe,  
Howling lament.  
Anger.  
Abandonment.  
Fear. Rest. Joy.

## **Think the Bible is all polite? Think again.**

A Lent course in 5 sessions, all  
welcome. No experience necessary.

**Wednesdays from 17 Feb - 16 March,**  
**7.30-9 pm, Greenford Methodist Church**

**Repeated Thursdays from 18 Feb - 17 March,**  
**10-11.30 am, Pitshanger Methodist Church**

More info? Jennifer Smith, 020 8579 8114.  
[jennifer.methodist@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.methodist@yahoo.co.uk)

*Most of scripture speaks **TO** us while the Psalms  
speak **FOR** us... the Psalms are like a mirror, in  
which one can see oneself and the movements of  
one`s own heart. - St Athanasius (c296-373)*

## **From the Church Council**

The most recent Church Council meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and was attended by 12 members of the Council (out a total of 24), plus 2 representatives from the King's Hall Class Meeting.

First of all, some comments about church structure. Rachel decided to speak about this because from time to time various people have questioned the need to put issues to the Church Council for decision. In line with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (aka 'CPD'), the Church Council is the central decision making body of the church and all decisions must go through the Council. This makes sure that the church works together and avoids confusion. In between Church Council meetings, the Church Stewards are able to act in the name of the Council on day to day or urgent matters. However, when questions of church policy arise, these should always be put to the Council.

The church also has committees, ie Pastoral, Property, Finance and World Service & Mission committees, to which authority has been delegated to act within limits set by the Church Council. These committees however, should only act within those limits – any matters which go beyond their delegated

authorities have to be referred to the Church Council.

Whilst on the subject of committees, the Pastoral Committee still needs a new secretary to replace Derek Matthews. It's not an onerous role and, if you are interested Derek will be happy to tell you what it involves.

Secondly, the Council decided to change the remit of the World Service & Mission committee. At present, this committee focuses almost entirely on charitable fundraising and giving. This means that there is no group exercising broad oversight of outreach and social events (eg Trader's Day) or existing groups within the church (Babies & Toddlers, Tuesday Club). Oversight of such events and groups has therefore been exercised by the Church Council. It was agreed that the World Service & Mission committee should be re-structured to focus on outreach as well as charitable giving. This will require a new balance between the two aspects of its work. The new structure will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The Council discussed whether to set up a Worship Consultation group which could consider what worship should be, our style of worship, problems/issues regarding worship, the use of AV system etc.



In this context, it's worth noting that in future the Methodist Church intends that congregations should have greater influence over how worship is conducted at their churches, thus shifting the balance away from preachers. It was agreed that in the first instance, everyone should be invited to an after church consultation session (possibly 2 per annum). Rachel will set a suitable date for a first meeting.

Finally, on the subject of groups, the Council discussed whether we should set up another 'home group' as a small number of people have asked if this would be possible. Kingsdown currently has one active home group (run by Steve & Liz Palmer) and a second which Ivy Hanson has been intending to re-start. It was agreed that the level of support for another group should be investigated first. Rachel will put out a notice and sign-up sheet. In the meantime, Sunday evening Bible Studies started meeting again on 17<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm – these are fortnightly and everyone is welcome!

On more mundane matters, the Council agreed a formal Reserves Policy, which Charity Law now requires us to have. In short, Kingsdown will aim to maintain a general reserve equal to half of annual expenditure excluding major repairs.

As you will all have noticed, the plastic lettering giving our church's name on the front of the building started falling off last year and has now been removed completely. Council agreed that there should be a new name sign but in a different form with more prominent colours and not using plastic letters. Property Committee was requested to develop detailed proposals. It was also agreed that the large front cross will be re-varnished.

One of the things we have to pay attention to, especially following the recent Past Cases Review is safeguarding. This means updating our church safeguarding policy and also making sure that everyone who should have an up-to-date 'DBS' check has one. Sybil Corbin is following this up.

Another thing we have to do these days is pay more attention to fire safety and this includes holding fire drills to test our evacuation procedures. This means that at some point, and you won't be told when, we must hold a fire drill. Be warned! First, though our evacuation procedures will be re-publicised, so pay attention to them when they come out!

The next Church Council meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Gerald Barton**  
Secretary to Church Council

# **SAFEGUARDING**

Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults are part of the service provided by The Methodist Church.

## **Statement of Safeguarding Principles**

*(Transcript from original document)*

The Church of England and The Methodist Church work in partnership with other Christian Churches and other agencies in delivering safeguarding. The following statement of principles appears at the head of each safeguarding policy.

We are committed to:

The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults.

The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and all adults

The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

What is our next step?

We are updating our files, some members who hold offices will need to have a new Criminal Record Check, and renewal is every 5 year, according to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) rules.

In the meantime, I shall be in touch with the relevant holders to discuss the process and preparation in readiness for Rev. Rachel Bending's input and Signature.

**Sybil Corbin**  
**Safeguarding Officer**

**It's clear that God has arranged our anatomy in such a way that it is difficult to pat ourselves fairly and squarely on the back.**

# 10th Ealing BB -- News



Your Boys' Brigade Company, 10th Ealing, is up and running again after the Christmas holiday, and we're well into preparations for the surfeit of competitions coming our way in the spring. We'll be competing in Military Drill, Marching Band and Gymnastics at various levels.

We did have a lovely surprise to start the New Year as we discovered that Old Boy, David Bartram, had been awarded an OBE in the Honours List. David was a stalwart BB member during the 1980's, excelling in Band and Camping activities, and is fondly remembered by many within the Church.



*(David is pictured outside Kingsdown in 1990)*

Of course, we couldn't mention David without also referencing his sterling contribution to the early days of the Kingsdown Amateur Theatre Company -- his comedic talents were a joy to behold.

He has received his award for contributions to Special Educational Needs sector, and it comes as no surprise to us that this intelligent and caring man has done so well in this area.

We do hope to see David at our 50th Birthday Celebration on Sunday 18th September; indeed everyone will be welcome, whether directly connected to the BB or not.

Sure and Steadfast.

*Tony Plews*



**Concert: February 7th**  
Yoshiko Miyagawa (soprano)

4.00pm – 5.15pm Tickets £5

# 10th Ealing BB -- Can you help?



As you may know, 10th Ealing is the largest BB Company's in London, and our numbers continue to grow.

Ironically, however, we also have the smallest number of staff in West London (just three "full-time" volunteers).

If anyone feels they would be able to support us (especially in Anchors and Juniors from 6:30 - 7:30pm) it would be incredibly helpful.

All offers of assistance will be gratefully considered because we truly want to continue to offer the best possible range of activities to the boys.

Please do drop me a line if you would like to know more.

[tonyplews@sky.com](mailto:tonyplews@sky.com) 079 4031 1019

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support.

*Tony Plews*



## BOOK FAIRS - DATES FOR 2016

12 March	Kingsdown
7 May	Christian Aid
2 July	Action for Children
17 September	All We Can
5 November	Methodist Homes

Would you like to help at our Book Fairs? If so, please let me know.

(PLEASE, NO MORE BOOKS AT PRESENT)



## **Commissioning of the Southall Christian Schools Worker 17 January 2016**

Commissioning of the Southall Christian Schools Worker: an initiative for Faith Engagement in Secondary Education, shared by the Ealing Trinity Circuit and the Southall Group of the Church of England

The Revd Karen Greenidge was welcomed and licensed as our lead education worker to direct engagement with secondary schools in Southall, Middlesex, on Sunday 17 January 2016 at Emmanuel Church, Southall.

Standing alongside the RE provision and school chaplaincies, Karen will develop curriculum, recruit faith ambassadors among students, be a bridge for interfaith leaders' access to schools and interfaith participation. She will also be present in the existing Methodist and Anglican congregations to support parents and our mission in Southall secondary schools, working against radicalisation and for a critical, mature faith among all believers involved in education.

This post has been three years in development and is supported financially by the Ealing Trinity Circuit, the District Advance Fund, and the All Saints Educational Trust, along with the Southall Group Ministry of the Church of England.

Want to know more? Contact Superintendent minister Jennifer Smith:  
[jennifer.methodist@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.methodist@yahoo.co.uk)

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Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.

**John Lennon, musician**

By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it.

**George Burns, comedian**

**Never let a computer know you are in a hurry!**



## Cumbria Flood Appeal

In response to a request from the Cumbria District, the Methodist Church is appealing to Methodist people across the country to do what they can to help.

The Cumbria Community Foundation have set up a Cumbria 2015 Flood Appeal to raise funds to support the individuals and communities devastated by the storms and flooding, and the Methodist Church is supporting this appeal as the best way to get help where it is needed. The money raised will be distributed to relieve the hardship caused for thousands of people by the disaster helping with costs and materials for cleaning up, emergency repairs, clothing, food and drink, heating and heating equipment, child care equipment and basic furniture.

If you would like to make an **online donation**, please go to:-  
<http://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/cumbriafoundation/cumbriafloodappeal2015>

Alternatively, please make **cheques** payable to: *Cumbria Community Foundation* and send by post to the following address -  
CCF, Dovenby Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0PN

Please state that your donation is in response to the Methodist Church Appeal, so that the total raised can be tracked.

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Our Circuit is a member of West London Citizens so you may be interested in attending a planning meeting at -

WEST LONDON  
**CITIZENS**

Ealing Green Church from 8pm-9.30pm on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 led by Stefan Baskerville, Lead Organiser for West London Citizens.

The meeting will focus on how to raise the pledged 50 people to go to the Mayoral Assembly on the 28th April 2016.

Please let Deacon Richard Goldstraw ([richard.goldstraw@sky.com](mailto:richard.goldstraw@sky.com)) know if you wish to attend this meeting.

# CHRISTIAN AID NEWS



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 2015

The 2015 Christmas Appeal was for work in Nigeria where malaria kills more than 1,000 children EVERY day.

Mary lost two young children to malaria though their deaths were preventable. An insecticide treated bed net costing just a few pounds (5 nets for £15) can save children from the agony of deadly malaria - but OUR help is needed to provide them. And every gift Christian Aid has received this Christmas will be matched by the UK Government (up to £3m).

If you wish to contribute to this appeal there is still time - up to 5 February 2016).

Two carol concerts were held in Central London for this Appeal. The Annual Gospel Christmas Carol Service at the City Temple, and a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carol Service at St Luke's, Chelsea, with special guests Huw Edwards from the BBC, and our Christian Aid CEO, Loretta Mingella. One of our Kingsdown friends attended this service; the church was packed and she said it was a wonderful service in every way.

## CHRISTIAN AID SUPPORTERS DAY - 2016

This was held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, too late for the February Messenger - so I will write about it in the March Messenger.

### RISE - Refreshed - Inspired - Supported and Equipped

A CA slogan for the crucial work of bringing an end to poverty. We shall reflect on CAW 2015 and look ahead to CAW 2016.

Loretta Mingella will give the Keynote address and this year we shall focus on **BANGLADESH**. Thank you for your continued help and support.

**Ruby Warne** (21 January 2016)



# CLIMATE CHANGE TAKE ACTION NOW!

This Valentine's Day, we invite you to join us in raising awareness of climate change and how it is affecting everything we love.

From the Book of Genesis to Revelation, there is a thread that runs through the Bible about how creation and humankind should be bound together in a relationship of love, respect and protection. All people, all around the world, share this, our common home.

In December 2015 in Paris, 195 countries agreed a new global deal to tackle climate change. The agreement followed years of campaigning by groups including All We Can, working as part of the Climate Coalition.

The only way the Paris deal means anything is if we bring it home – and make sure that the climate pledges made in our name are honoured. That's why All We Can will be continuing to work with other members of the Climate Coalition to keep climate on the agenda.

On Valentine's Day, we're aiming to get our friends, families and neighbours to join a national conversation about how climate change will affect us all, and why it's still important. An inspiring film and a love letter written by one of the nation's favourite authors will set the scene ([www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk)), but we need you to be involved too.

## **Wear your heart on your sleeve**



Create, and then wear, a green heart. Each handmade heart is a moment of possibility, a chance to smile and to talk.

It could begin a conversation about the things we love that climate change threatens, and the clean energy choices we must make to protect our world.



# The Hugh Price Hughes Lectures –



## Thinking For Today's World “Faith in...”

The HPH Lectures are a series of free lectures which take place at Hinde Street Methodist Church. The series will invite you to reflect on how other ways of knowing and seeing – “faith” commitments for some – relate to Christian faith. Lectures take place on:-

**9th February – Dr Robert Asher**

Reflections on belief by an evolutionary biologist

**8th March – Polly Jones**

Think globally, act locally

**12th April – Rev Ric Stott.**

How visual art can open up how we understand ourselves, each other and God

**10th May – Yasmin Alibhai-Brown**

Identity, modernity and faith

**14th June – Michael Wakelin**

Living as Christians in a multi-faith Britain and the importance of religious literacy

**Hinde Street Methodist Church, Hinde Street, W1  
7.30 pm - Admission Free**

You can find out more about the lecture series by going to -  
[www.hindestreet.rgo.uk/hph-lectures](http://www.hindestreet.rgo.uk/hph-lectures)

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## THE BOX - CHURCH FOYER

Many thanks for all the postage stamps and specs placed recently in the Box, which is now empty! All these items are still needed - URGENTLY.

Mobile phones and ink jets  
Socks

Specs  
Stamps.

Thank you.

**Ruby Warne**



# *get up and go* *strength and balance programme*

## **Live at Home Scheme – New Activities Starting**

The Circuit Live at Home scheme in conjunction with MHA and StayActive4Life is now offering Strength and Balance classes at two of our churches – at Pitshanger on Tuesdays from 11.00 am - 12.00 pm and at Northolt on Fridays from 12.15 pm – 1.00 pm. All are welcome and there is no charge for either class (for ten weeks). At Northolt a light lunch is available for a donation of £2.00.

Secondly, a regular Wednesday Coffee Morning is starting at Greenford on 20 th January 2016 from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. A donation of £1.00 is requested.

For further information about the Live at Home scheme, please contact the Scheme Manager, Sonia Dhami on 020 8813 0519 or e-mail at [ealing.liveathome@mha.org.uk](mailto:ealing.liveathome@mha.org.uk).

There are other classes, in the 'get up and go' programme , also run by - Stay Active 4 Life - at:

The Ealing Christian Centre, Northfield Avenue  
Mondays 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm

St Pauls Church, Ridley Avenue  
Wednesdays 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm



The courses are FREE for the first ten weeks then a small fee is payable. To commence on a course turn up at your selected venue or contact 'Stay Active 4 Life' - Aran Summers 020 8574 7785 Mob: 0771 517 0207

**There could be a course starting in April at Kingsdown - would you be interested? If so e-mail your name to [messenger@questa.co.uk](mailto:messenger@questa.co.uk) and we will pass it on to the providers for registration.**

## **10 February - Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry**

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus).  
(Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

### ***Prayer on Prayer***

*Dear Father,*

*Thank you that you want us, your children, to connect with you in prayer. Thank you that we can come to you, rest in your presence and spend time with you, either quietly or crying out our thoughts and concerns from open hearts. Help us to trust you; to be confident that you hear us and will answer our prayers, in the right time and in the right way for us, even if we don't always understand.*

*Thank you for the sustaining privilege of prayer,  
In Jesus name.*

*Amen*

*By Daphne Kitching*



I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager).... I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later..... I don't have to go to school or work..... I get an allowance every fortnight.... I have my own pad..... I don't have a curfew..... I have a driver's licence and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the bottle shops. I like the bottle shops best..... and I don't have acne..... Life is Good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a Seenager.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full..... Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it's nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

Submitted by **Janet Smith**



*NO Chocolate for Lent!*  
*“But look”, said Martin,*  
*“Maltesers have hardly*  
*any chocolate on”*



Welcome to the

## MAGICAL LANTERN FESTIVAL

SEE LIFE ILLUMINATED – CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS

The Magical Lantern Festival makes its UK Premiere at Chiswick House & Gardens in London, transforming the environment into an extravaganza of lights, culture, art and cuisine.

The Festival is an outdoor event, a festival of light and illumination celebrating Chinese New Year 2016 and the Year of the Monkey. Guests will enjoy 75 minutes on their cultural adventure and explore a picturesque garden trail through Corridors of Light leading to vividly themed zones.

Buy Tickets online: <http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/artist/2188307>

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## Ideas for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is named after an early Christian martyr, and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496, in honour of St Valentine, who showed such kindness and love to all who crossed his path. It has become the day when we celebrate the joys of human love.



If you have a romance in your life, how about getting out your best crockery for a romantic candlelit meal? Or go through your photographs together, or write the one you love a love letter? Can you return to the scene of your first date? - or perhaps plant a shrub together, to celebrate the day?

Even if you do not have a romance in your life, that need not stop you enjoying Valentine's Day (after all, the saint had no romance in his life). Instead, why not seek out and show love and kindness to several people? How about hosting a Valentine's meal to enjoy each other's company and to share God's love for us all? At the very least, why not be on the 'look-out' to do people a random act of kindness this month?

Ask God to help you be sensitive to even a stranger who needs a helping hand.

## **Celebrating 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of birth of 'Capability' Brown**

Some 150 stately homes will join in the year-long celebrations of the birth of this legendary gardener, starting on 13 February, with an exhibition of Blenheim Palace - one of the many grand properties whose grounds he designed. Why 'Capability'? He always told prospective clients that their gardens had 'great capabilities'.

From Feb-Oct, [capabilitybrown.org](http://capabilitybrown.org).

## **Celebrating 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shakespeare's Death**

A year of events to mark this anniversary starts on 13 February with 'Shakespeare in the Royal Library', a Windsor Castle exhibition celebrating the links between the Bard and royalty.

The BBC celebrates the actual anniversary on 23 April with a star-studded concert from Stratford-on-Avon, hosted by David Tennant, celebrating Shakespeare's enduring influence on everything from opera to musicals. [Royalcollection.org.uk](http://Royalcollection.org.uk), 020 7766 7304.

## **Vogue 100: A Century of Style**

At the National Portrait Gallery from 11 February-22 May, an exhibition featuring classic photos of the likes of Kate Moss, Fred Astaire and David Beckham, and photographers such as Mario Testino, Cecil Beaton and David Bailey.

[npg.org.uk](http://npg.org.uk), 020 7306 0055.

## **Kew Orchids**

Featuring Brazilian orchids, the display this year in the Royal Botanical Gardens' Princess of Wales Conservatory, will be from 6 February to 6 March - always a magnificent display!

## **Magical Lantern Festival comes to Chiswick House**

From 3 February until 6 March, Chiswick House will celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Monkey with more than 50 giant, hand-sculptured lanterns in a garden trail through themes zones, and will feature a 66-metre long dragon. (See p. 21 for more details.)

# WEST LONDON SINFONIA

## Shakespeare in Music

Saturday 6 February  
7.30pm

St Michael and All Angels Church  
Bedford Park  
London W4



*A programme of music and readings  
to include*

Nicolai Overture to the Merry Wives of Windsor

Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet

Walton Henry V Suite

Vaughan Williams Serenade to Music

Tickets: £14 full price  
£12 concessions, £5 child/student  
Buy from our website, or on the  
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Information from 020 3475 4200

Conductor Philip Hesketh  
Leader Iwona Boesche

Buy on line - <http://westlondonsinfonia.org/?product=6-february-2016>



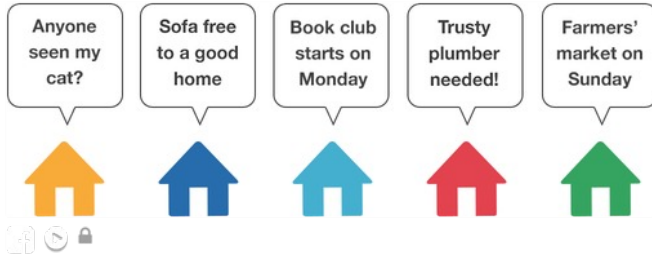
## Leap year – when women can propose to men

An old Irish legend tells how it was St Brigid who first struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men every four years. The arrangement was meant to 'balance' the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way to how Leap Day balances our calendar.

# www.streetlife.com

Streetlife is a social network for local communities.

It's a free and simple website for neighbours to connect and share news, views, recommendations and resources.



## Connect

Find people with common interests nearby and talk about the local issues that matter to you.

## Share

Exchange local news and events, from lost cats to crime alerts, craft fairs to community clean-ups.

## Discover

Share it on Streetlife, and start making the most of where you live.



## ***The Unofficial Bible for Minecrafters*** - ***Stories from the Bible told block by block***

Since 2009, Minecraft has taken the gaming world by storm. Now hugely popular with children, those familiar with the phenomenon will love this new world and the adventures of God's people **£12.99**

<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/product-search/minecraft+bible/>

## **The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER**

**Copy deadline for the March 2016 issue is Friday 26th February 2016**

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail: [magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk](mailto:magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk)



# Ealing Animal Welfare

# BAZAAR

## Hanwell Methodist Church

Church Road, London, W7 1DJ

**Saturday 5th March 2016**

**10:30am - 4:00pm**

A wide range of participating societies

admission  
**FREE**

Now in its  
38th year

[www.animalwelfarebazaar.info](http://www.animalwelfarebazaar.info)



**Concert: February 7th**  
Yoshiko Miyagawa (soprano)

4.00pm – 5.15pm Tickets £5



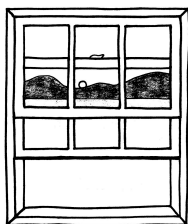
## HYMNS

When you come to church you hear hymns. Hymns are songs of praise to God. Some are very old and some, like the ones you may sing at school, are new.

Have you ever wondered who wrote the hymns we sing? For example, one hymn writer was Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Londonderry. She wrote a book called 'Hymns for Little Children' which was dedicated to her godchildren. The book was published in 1848 and contained hymns that we know well today; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'.

It is said that she wrote the last hymn because of the view from the Bishop's palace. The house looked out over the city walls to the green hills in the distance.

So the words we sing today come from the view that Mrs Alexander had from her window.



## HYMN TITLES

All the following hymn titles have some words missing – can you fill in the blanks. All the hymns are from Mission Praise and the answers are below.

1. While \_\_\_\_ watched
2. Lead us, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, lead us.
3. Away in a \_\_\_\_
4. Forty days and \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_
5. Hark! The \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ sing
6. \_\_\_\_ has broken
7. \_\_\_\_ night, \_\_\_\_ night
8. There is a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ far away
9. We plough the \_\_\_\_ and scatter
10. Amazing \_\_\_\_

### Didn't your teacher say your singing was heavenly?

Well, she did say it was like nothing on earth.



- Answers:** 1. While shepherds watched  
 2. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
 3. Away in a manger 4. Forty days and forty nights 5. Hark, the herald angels sing 6. Morning has broken 7. Silent night, holy night 8. There is a green hill far away 9. We plough the fields and scatter 10. Amazing Grace.

## EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

### FEBRUARY

- Mon 1 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 2 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - The History of Jewelry (a talk by Jackie Dimmer)
- Wed 3 1 pm Babies & Toddlers commences (weekly) (term time only)
- 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 10.00 am to 12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
- Sun 7 4.00 pm **Acton Hill**: Iris Axon Concert Series  
Yoshiko Miyagawa, soprano -Tickets £5.00
- Tue 9 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 13 10.00 am-12.30 pm Book Fair in aid of JMA/MWinB - cake,  
bric-a-brac, Fairtrade, stalls and raffle. Admission 40p.
- Tue 16 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club -Music with the Caroliners  
7.30 pm Circuit Policy Committee at Kingsdown

### FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 29 FEBRUARY - 13 MARCH

Next Church Council Meeting **3 March**  
Book Fair **13 March**



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.