



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



Congratulations ma'am on your 90th birthday

April 2016

SERVICES FOR APRIL



- 3 Apr 10.30 Local Arrangement
- 10 Apr 10.30 Mrs Rachel Kamara, Family Service
6.00 **CIRCUIT SERVICE at Ealing Green**
(in connection with Art Exhibition - see pp 22/23.)
- 17 Apr 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
6.00 Bible Study - 'We Make the Road by Walking'
- 24 Apr 10.30 Mrs Charmaine Dinham

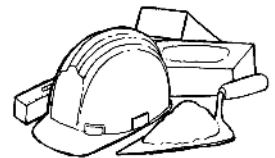


(Sermon Series for Kingsdown based on 'We Make the Road by Walking' by Brian McLaren continuing.)



FUTURE BUILDING WORKS AT KINGSDOWN

From 12 April contractors (AC Builders) are coming in to refurbish the cross; repair and paint the Apex; and repair and paint the panel over the side door leading into the vestibule from Kingsdown Avenue. They will be erecting scaffolding on that day.



Works will probably take just under two weeks, depending on the weather.

Janet Smith

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

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Dear friends

On Easter Sunday the chapter of 'We make the Road by walking' was entitled 'The uprising begins'. Over the next few weeks our worship takes the theme of uprising of fellowship, discipleship, worship, partnership and stewardship. We are reminded how revolutionary our faith is. So revolutionary that people have been killed and imprisoned for it. So revolutionary that it has threatened rulers and governments. So revolutionary that it can turn the world upside down.

During the service on Easter Sunday I read the following passage from the book:

"Resurrection has begun. We are part of something rare, something precious, something utterly revolutionary. It feels like an uprising. An uprising of hope, not hate. An uprising armed with love, not weapons. An uprising that shouts a joyful promise of life and peace, not angry threats of hostility and death. It's an uprising of outstretched hands, not clenched fists." (Brian McClaren, *We make the road by walking*, page 209)

How often do we allow ourselves to realise just how revolutionary Jesus's example is and what a difference living in his way can make? How can we each allow the uprising to begin within us and within our community?

The challenge, the invitation and the opportunity is there.

God bless

Rachel

FAMILY NEWS

Please continue to pray for **Eileen Cox** who is seriously ill with cancer and now in a Care Home in Acton. Also remember those due to have operations this month, that they may be successful and lead to speedy recovery.

We send greetings to all those past members of Kingsdown who remain on our mailing lists and continue to take an interest in our ongoing activities (and thank Mary Osborne for her continuing dedication in assisting with this task).

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have reminded people of the central Easter message of hope, passion and joy in the midst of despair.

Here is the President of Conference's message

After the Lenten fast, which with study and prayer has brought us closer to our Lord, we experience Holy Week with all the riches of the story so well known yet always fresh. As I've travelled, I'm thrilled that so many churches now make a Lenten cross out of the main trunk of the Christmas tree and decorate it with all the different symbols. There are so many resources to help us these days in our journey of discipleship.

But the glory of Easter is unsurpassed. The cry of all Christians to shout 'Hallelujah' is our birthright. We want and need more of the resurrection power and joy in the Church. Luke recording the early days of Christianity says of the first believers 'With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all' - Acts 4:33.

This time last year I had the great privilege of going to Portugal and being on a Holy Week mission with Bishop Sifredo and meeting our Methodist sisters and brothers in that beautiful country. We did many exciting outreach initiatives. On Easter Day I was at Aveiro

Methodist Church, a thrilling place to be. We passed by a large Roman Catholic procession, children in white and the bright sun gleaming on the banners.

We Methodists are small in comparison, but each church member was invited to bring a person to Easter breakfast and the hall was full when I arrived and shared in a very hearty breakfast. The worship band and singers enabled us to worship in the glory of the risen Christ and I preached on Mary's encounter with the risen Lord - challenging the congregation to meet with him too. The silver chalices and beautiful loaf were uncovered on the table.

I had an interpreter and so my words could have been misunderstood, but I held half the bread and said: "If you want a living relationship with the risen Christ take and eat". At which point a blonde young woman got up in her pew walked down the aisle and dug into the bread weeping. She pushed the bread down her throat.

It's the strongest reaction I've ever known to someone wanting to encounter the triumphant Jesus.

A Methodist President and brilliant speaker of years past, the Revd Dr William Sangster, was found by his wife one Easter morning weeping. He had muscular atrophy and could not speak. She said: "Why are you crying Will?" He wrote on a piece of

paper: 'It is Easter Day and I cannot say: "Hallelujah"'.

This Easter, with joy and love, may we all cry Hallelujah and encounter the risen Lord.

A message for Easter from the Chairs of the London District

As a team of Chairs we are delighted and privileged to be granted with the opportunity to visit circuits around the district.

Throughout our travels within the Circuits we witness many of our congregations encouraging their communities to encounter the risen Christ in so many different ways; this can be seen through worship, youth works, bright hours, fellowship groups, uniformed organisations, refugee projects, lunch clubs and the list goes on.

A majority of these marvellous activities happen week by week as part of ministry and mission in the local church, and are seen as the life giving things we do in our local churches and communities, it is through activities like that so many people encounter the risen Christ.

Encounters with the risen Christ turn lives around. This transformation not only occurred in the first century as we read throughout the gospels

The cowardly, quarrelling disciples, so often uncomprehending, so often weak, become, through the resurrection, brave and united. The resurrection happens not only to Jesus, but, in a way, to his disciples as well.

They are lifted from the narrow tomb of their former existence and thrust into the sunlight of a spacious life. This resurrection process has never stopped happening since that first Easter Day. People and places continue to be transformed, just as after Easter last year we saw evidence of this all around our district.

We comprehend that where they were once wounded have become sources of strength, for grace has done its healing work. It reminds us that this, resurrected Jesus refuses to remain only a victim. Still marked by the wounds of the cross, the risen Lord appears in the midst of his disciples, offering the world forgiveness. He fills his disciples.

with forgiveness first, and commands them to pass on this gift to others.

The resurrection of Christ is no isolated event. The resurrection of Christ declares that our separation from God, our separation from each other, is all in the resurrection. Contact with, the risen Christ, brings transformation: we start to become what in our best moments we can be.

Easter is not one morning only, or even the church season that extends for 50 days. Easter is a way of life. The Risen One waits for us in scripture and sacrament, in prayer and music, in community and service. The Risen One waits for us in the faces of those who love us, and in the faces of those who need

our love. The Risen One waits for us in every corner. His resurrection is not an idle tale. It is not even just barefaced fact. His resurrection is something more: it is a vibrant reality, a force for the future.

Without the Easter story Jesus would have been little more than a flare in the night. Darkness would have still had the last word. We all go through death and resurrection experiences in our life, this may be the physical death of a loved one or when something goes wrong in our life, and we see the light and the dark cloud of pain or gloom is removed can be classed as resurrection moments.

We continue to remember we are a *Good Friday People* as well as an *Easter People!*

In support of Brussels

Michaela Youngson on behalf of the District Chairs of the London Methodist District

It is with shock and deep sadness that we have again witnessed the murder of people going about their everyday lives. Londoners will watch the news of the explosions in Brussels and will remember the attacks on public transport in July 2005.

The images and memories are vivid and remind us again of the vulnerability of life and the

willingness of a handful of people to assert their own agenda through acts of terror and violence.

In the past few days lives have also been lost in Afghanistan, Pakistan and in many other places, often with little coverage on western media. Each life lost in an airport, market place, metro station or school is a cost too great. In the great complexity of the political

realities that surround us it is tempting to lose sight of those individual lives and to feel helpless. Yet in all of the acts of cruelty that we witness, we see people putting their own lives at risk to help the injured and the vulnerable, we see people of different faiths standing in solidarity with each other, we see courage that we only hope we might demonstrate in the same circumstances.

As we consider the most unholy of actions in the midst of our Holy Week reflections, I pray that we will notice the acts of human decency and dignity in the midst of the carnage and chaos.

When we consider again the cross of Jesus and his divine humanity, I pray that we will not be blind to the common humanity we share with our neighbours.

Many of our Muslim brothers and sisters receive abuse, verbal and physical, when such events as have happened in Brussels take place and there is a great deal of pressure on the Islamic communities in the our city.

Whilst we may feel helpless in the face of violence and events in Syria, we are able to be peacemakers in our own context. Consider ways in which you and your church can develop friendships with Muslim neighbours in your own community. Pray for their flourishing and the well-being of people of all faiths and none and reflect the sacrificial love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

on behalf of the District Chairs of
the London Methodist District

A prayer by Tony Miles:

Suffering God,
we pray for the injured, dying and grieving.
May they receive help, comfort and healing.
When terrorism is rife,
may we not give in to despair,
for ultimately only enduring love
can triumph over evil, sin and death.
May the Spirit of Jesus
enable faith, hope and love to rise up,
with justice and peace.
Amen.

© Anthony D. Miles - March 2016

Good Friday - Passion Play

While I enjoyed the Passion Play Performance on Good Friday, am I the only person who still prefers the Walk from Kingsdown to Christ Church with short services at St Mary's Church and Ealing Green beforehand?

I feel this gave us a better chance to walk together as a Church and to meet up with our friends at St Pauls and Ealing Green rather than get lost in the crowd

June Thompson



2016 - 300th anniversary of Lancelot "Capability" Brown

Capability Brown was the renowned landscape architect who transformed many of England's gardens and inspired successive generations to follow and develop his ideas. From 28 April to 4 September Hampton Courts marks the occasion with an exhibition 'The Empress and the Gardener' showcasing 60 watercolour paintings of the estate by John Spyers, who was Brown's assistant.

English Tourism Week has chosen 2016 to be the Year of the English Garden, so start looking out for the many gardens which will be welcoming visitors around the country during the coming months.

EALING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Ealing Green Church invites you to join them to sing
Handel's "MESSIAH" on Saturday 16 April 2016.**

If you are interested, full details can be found at the back of 'In Touch' magazine in our Church foyer.

**One of the greatest miracles is the fact that even though
there are billions of people in the world, every person is
unique.**

Governments must do more to help Syria's people

The Methodist Church, along with three other major UK Churches, has called on governments to provide substantial new funding to alleviate the suffering of the people of Syria, including refugees in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.

The recent call from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church came on the eve of the international pledging conference for Syria.

The Revd Steve Wild, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "The bombing and shelling of civilian areas by the Syrian Government and other groups has caused immense death and suffering. The disregard for civilian life has been shocking; it is callous and totally unacceptable, even in war."

Launch of first London Christian Book Fair



The first London Christian Book Fair, a show-within-a-show, is to be held as part of the forthcoming Christian Resources Exhibition International*. As last year's visitors to CRE spent about £40,000 on books and music, the Christian Book Fair will be building on a firm foundation.

The Book Fair will include seminars and book signings with authors published by SPCK, Lion Hudson, CWR, Cambridge University Press and William Collins.

For the first time, CRE International will also host a Youth Zone with youth organisations represented together in one area. Eco Street will help churches look at theological issues surrounding ecology and offer practical ways to respond.

More than 300 exhibitors are expected to take part at CRE.

* CRE International takes place at ExCeL, London, Tue 17 - Fri 20 May 2016. For opening hours and tickets visit www.creonline.co.uk or phone 01793 418218.

Congratulations to our Junior Drill Squad who retained their title of Battalion Champions.



On Saturday 19th March all the weeks of practice paid off and they delivered a smart, confident and immaculate performance. Well done, lads, you should feel very proud.

We also finished as runners-up in the single-line event which was deservedly won by our friends from 1st Uxbridge.

This is the fourth time in ten years we have been Junior Drill Champions -- it's a great achievement indeed.

Many thanks to our Junior Drillmasters, Lt Mark Tobias and Sgt Daniel Plews.

Wishing you a blessed Easter.

Tony Plews
079 4031 1019



Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books **Cakes** **Gifts** **Plants**
Traidcraft **Bric-a-Brac**

Saturday 7th May

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:



Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads

Henry David Thoreau

We believe in life before death

Who is my Neighbour?

In the March Messenger I wrote about Christian Aid Week 2016, when the focus will be on BANGLADESH and Morsheda and her family.

The DVD's have now arrived and also the "Seven-day devotionals for Christian Aid Week". Please do let me know if you would like copies of either or both of these resources. Either will give you more information of Morsheda and her family and neighbours. Unfortunately, there will be no other way of passing on this information.

A PRAYER FROM BANGLADESH

O Saviour Christ,
In whose way of life lies the secret of all life,
And the hopes of all the people,
We pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.
But let its problems challenge us,
Its discoveries exhilarate us,
Its injustice anger us,
And its vigour renew us,
for your Kingdom's sake.

(Bangladesh. A Procession of Prayers: Meditations and prayers from around the World. John Carden, WCC, and Cassell, London UK. 1998 p.179.)

Ruby Warne

**Be thankful that you have a place on this earth-
a physical spot to call your home,
a history that tells your story,
a nest of relationships that make you who you are**

Thomas Kinkade

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The most recent meeting of the Church Council was on 3rd March and was attended by 11 members of the Council (out a total of 24) plus 2 representatives from the King's Hall Class Meeting.

Recent meetings have begun with a discussion of some aspect of church life before continuing on to matters of church business – finance, property and so on. This meeting began with a discussion on 'congregation development'.

Congregational Development

Starting the discussion, Rev Rachel Bending suggested that we should see the vision process as part of normal church life – you will recall that we have had two 'awaydays' and some after-service lunches to think about where we are going as a church.

Council decided that we should hold another 'awayday' in the Autumn with a provisional date of 19th October so that we can spend time together away from the church. This time members of the King's Hall Class Meeting will be invited to join us – the Class Meeting is formally part of Kingsdown. Rachel suggested a venue closer to home,

possibly the Kairos Centre in Roehampton.

The meeting was positive towards the idea, but it was noted that some of us in the church have mixed feelings towards the idea of 'awaydays' and feel that the money could be better spent. However, the funding for the 'awaydays' came from the 'Talents' grant from the Circuit and was intended to be used for some form of mission development.

Given where Kingsdown was at the end of the long and arduous redevelopment compounded by changes in our ministers, the initial rationale of taking some 'time out' to consider our future path as a church met the Circuit's criteria for use of the grant. We still have sufficient of the grant left to fund a further 'awayday' but Rachel suggested that if people feel they would like to make a donation of time or money in return they would be very welcome to do so.

Volunteers are required to organise the 'awayday' – speak to Rachel! Worship being a major part of church life, there will be a Worship Consultation on 15th May after the morning service. This will give us a

chance to review the impact of using 'We Make the Road by Walking' for themed worship. In addition we will be asked to consider whether we should continue with themed worship from this coming September or whether worship should be based on the lectionary.

A further aim of the meeting will be to get over the message that we are all part of the process of deciding how our worship should be conducted. In this context, Rachel commented that other Circuit ministers who had preached at Kingsdown had noticed a greater spiritual 'feel' to the services they had conducted at our church.

Turning to matters of business....

Finance

Derek Matthews presented the accounts for the year to 31st August 2015 and these were duly approved. He also indicated that the provisional results for the first 6 months of this financial year showed a modest surplus. One unexpected cost which we will face from April onwards is for waste collection. Until now waste from churches has been treated as household waste and has been collected free of charge.

From 1st April, however Ealing Council will be raising charges on

churches and other non-profit organisations. As we are legally obliged to have our waste collected we have no option but to arrange a contract for its collection. The Council decided to remain with Ealing Council at a cost of about £910 pa.

Safeguarding

Sybil Corbin reported that there would be changes to safeguarding procedures following from the recent Past Cases Review. In particular, the safeguarding training module is being updated and as a result, current training needs are on hold pending the new material. In addition, our DBS checks are in the process of being renewed and brought fully up to date.

Pastoral Visitors would now be subject to checks if they visit vulnerable adults in the name of the church. Rachel noted that only those people playing certain specific roles in the church would be subject to DBS checks, but where checks are required they are obligatory.

Property

Janet Smith reported that certain parts of the church frontage needed attention. In particular work is required on the apex of the frontage as well as on the fascia

boards on the frontage and above the main entrance. The external cross had been examined and found to have been inadequately sealed before installation and would require more work than previously. The total cost would be of the order of £3,000 based on three quotes obtained. Council agreed that this work should go ahead.

Charity of the Year

The World Service and Mission Committee proposed that Hope for Southall Street Homeless be the Charity of the Year for 2016-17. Council endorsed the proposal.

King's Hall

Rachel Bending told the meeting that the King's Hall building had been re-marketed. There had been nine bids, four of which would be interviewed. Negotiations would proceed with the preferred bidder.

In addition there were two late proposals. The first was from Wesley Hotels (formerly the Methodist International Centre) to develop a hotel with church facilities, and the second for a development with a housing trust of affordable housing alongside church space. In both these cases the property would remain with the Methodist Church. Rachel commented that it was likely to be

a minimum of three years before completion of the development.

In order to make continued Methodist mission in Southall more public, Rachel will be requesting a grant of £100 to purchase a small gazebo, table and chairs that can be put up at the front of King's Hall on Thursday lunchtimes. This would allow contact and discussion with passers-by.

Currently, the King's Hall Class Meeting has no voting representative on Circuit Meeting – at the moment, George Lafford and Bill Carty attend as non-voting observers.

Rachel suggested that one of them could replace one of Kingsdown's current representatives. The meeting agreed that George Lafford replace one of Kingsdown's existing representatives.

Other things

An approach had been received from Heinz Chapel Choir of Pittsburgh University offering us a free concert on 6th May 2017. The meeting agreed to accept the offer. Noted that volunteers would be needed to organise publicity, refreshments etc.

Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, who joined the Circuit last September

will be ordained on Conference Sunday (3rd July) at Central Hall Westminster.

Dates to Note

15th May Worship Consultation, after morning service – everyone encouraged to attend!

5th June Annual General Church Meeting, after morning service – everyone encouraged to attend!

7th June Next Church Council meeting

19th October Awayday – provisional date

6th May 2017 Concert by Heinz Chapel Choir

And finally...

We still need to appoint a new Pastoral Secretary. Speak to Rachel if you're interested or you think you know somebody who would be good. Derek Matthews can fill you in on what's involved.

Gerald Barton,
Secretary to Church Council



DAFFODIL DAY - 7TH MARCH

Once again this wonderful celebration took place at Westminster Central Hall. What an exhilarating sight - over 1,000 women (and men!) - at the community singing. The content of the service included Pam Rhodes, some delightful solo singing, our President, Steve Wild, with his puppet 'Kermit' frog, and lots more.



For me 'Daffodil Day' represents the beginning of Spring and renewal. Do hope some of you can come next year - **Monday, 6th March 2017** - put it in your diaries. NOW!.

Jill Richardson



ETHIOPIA

Erratic Rain and El Niño

“The combination of erratic rains and El Niño have resulted in millions being put at risk of starvation in Ethiopia”, said Erica Bertolotto, All We Can Partnership Manager for Ethiopia. “Our local partners have reported increased pressure on the already vulnerable communities they work with, in many regions crops have completely failed. The majority of Ethiopians rely on agriculture to make a living, but much of the already limited farming land is suffering and people are struggling to eke out enough to live on. The situation is very serious.”

All We Can has been supporting its local Ethiopian partner, Sustainable Natural Resources Management Association (SUNARMA), since 2004. SUNARMA work to improve soil and water conservation and vegetable and livestock production in central Ethiopia. One of the areas they work in, Ankober Woreda, has been identified by the Ethiopian government as one of the regions most seriously affected by the drought. All We Can has provided £22,000 to SUNARMA to help provide nearly 3000 people with emergency food supplies such as wheat and oil.

SUNARMA will be working with other agencies and the local government to ensure that those most vulnerable to the impact of the drought in Ankober Woreda will be reached first

Ethiopia is not the same country as it was 30 years ago, when conflict and political factors exacerbated the famine. There has been significant progress and development since the 1980s. At a local level, All We Can has seen amazing changes through investment in sustainable agriculture solutions, and its partners have helped thousands of families improve their incomes and quality of life in recent years. The Ethiopian government has been able to set aside nearly £130m to deal with this current crisis, but it is not enough. The combination of the lack of rain and the El Niño climate phenomenon has taken its toll, and a global response is now required. As Erica Bertolotto explains, “One of the mistakes of 1984 was a failure to deal with the famine until it became a major humanitarian disaster. All We Can’s partners and the Ethiopian government are calling on the international community to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated, to prevent this crisis from becoming a catastrophe.”

Ealing

Live at Home

Supporting independence for older people



“We have lovely staff who make our afternoon as pleasant as possible and give help when needed. It is very important to have a local Live at Home scheme, giving elderly people the opportunity to make friends and avoid loneliness.”

Live at Home Scheme committee member.

The MHA is a charity that provides services for older people throughout the UK. The MHA has established 'Live at Home' community services that have been operational since 1988 and are now in over 70 locations across the UK. These 'Live at Home' schemes offer a range of services and support to older people living in their own homes. The aim is to promote independent, active and fulfilled lives. However, the schemes do not provide personal care.

Supported by the MHA, our Methodist Church Ealing Trinity Circuit has started a 'Live at Home' Scheme in the Ealing Borough and our offices are at the Greenford Methodist Church. This scheme is called the MHA-Ealing Live at Home Scheme.

In our efforts we are working with the Ealing Council, Stay Active 4 Life and of course the MHA to provide strength and balance classes. We have run exercise 23 classes across the Ealing Borough in this partnership so far.

We have started a Coffee morning at Greenford Methodist Church. The Strength and balance class at our Northolt Methodist Church enjoy a light lunch, after exercises, for a small extra fee. A Grow and Eat club is set to start soon and will be growing plants of vegetables and flowers by the start of summer.

The scheme is indeed a product of the Methodist Homes and the Ealing Trinity Circuit Methodist Church of the Ealing Borough. However, we open doors to all faiths and none of this diverse community of Ealing. All are welcome!

To find out more about the MHA- Ealing Live at Home Scheme or to volunteer, call us on

0208 8130 519 or at
ealing.liveathome@mha.org.uk

Our address is:
Greenford Methodist Church
Ruislip Road
Greenford
Middlesex
UB6 9QN



Methodist Women in Britain

Forum Report 2015

The Past year has seen much hard work, commitment and resolute effort on the part of the MWiB Executive and Forum members, in working toward our Aims in: -

- Bringing women together to know Christ and make him known
- Encouraging and enabling women to serve God in the church, community and the world
- Connecting women in Britain with women Worldwide.

The organisation has been ably led by Anne Browse, who was inducted at Conference in 2015 and her team of five executive members. The Forum which is the decision making body, comprising of the executive and 31 Forum member from the various Districts, continue to meet twice yearly and specific task groups drawn from the group, spearheads specific areas of work.

The current action program is our '*Dalit Solidarity Campaign*' which will conclude at a Fund Raising concert, featuring- Paul Field with Special guest, Garth Hewitt, to be held at West Minster Central Hall on. Saturday 21 May 2016, for the nominal sum of £5!

Looking Ahead:

- Our Circuit Easter Offering Service- Entitled- '*Child get up*', will be held at Greenford Church on 6.30 pm
- MWiB will have a Fringe event at Conference, which is to be held in London., at Central Hall, this year. This will take place on 4th July and it is hoped that as many people as possible, will be able to attend
- Representatives from the Connexional MWiB, will attend the 13th World assembly in August this year, which is to be held in Houston, Texas.

- The GEO have sent a second consultation paper, relating to 'Bridging the Gender pay gap' and a response, to the draft Statutory Instrument, to be presented in October, has been submitted.
- A District MWiB Fund raising concert, is to be held at Ealing Green on 9th July, ROM 6-9 PM. Further details will be circulated, shortly.
- A Summer, Ealing MWiB Promotional event is currently being planned. Further details will be available, shortly

Please visit the MWiB website, where there is a host of information on MWiB activities-www,mwib.org.uk

Blossom Jackson

Forum member- London District/ Current GEO. Rep.

Past President- London District.

MWiB Writing Competition



From deep within

Methodist Women in Britain has organised a writing competition inspired by the life, writing and work of the Revd Julie Hulme.

You are invited to submit a meditative or reflective piece of writing on the theme of '**From deep within**' in prose or poetry, maximum 500 words. This must be an original piece of work, not previously published either in print or electronically.

The competition is open to British residents, male and female, aged 16 or over, other than relatives of the organisers or judges. You may submit up to three entries. The **closing date is midnight on Sunday 15 May 2016**. There will be a prize of £150 for the winner and a runner-up prize of £50.

The winner and runner-up will be announced on 4 July 2016 at a fringe event of the Methodist Conference to be held in London.

Full rules and guidelines for entrants are available on the [MWiB website](http://www,mwib.org.uk).

“Visions of the Sacred” – exhibition at Ealing Green

Ealing Green is hosting an exhibition ‘Visions of the Sacred’ comprising works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection with works grouped around the themes of ‘Visions of the Sacred in Healing’, ‘in Struggles’ and ‘in Hospitality’. Admission is free.

The Methodist Modern Art Collection aims to enable people inside the church to connect their faith to art but, importantly also seeks to encourage people outside the church to consider the Christian message presented through the medium of art.

The Sacred in Hospitality



The Dalit Madonna
Jyoti Sahi

‘Visions of the Sacred’ will run from 9th April until 22nd May.

On 9th April the exhibition will be open from 12.00 – 6.00 pm and there will be a special opening reception at 6.00 pm attended by the Mayor of Ealing.

General opening times will then be Tuesday and Thursday 2.00pm – 6.00 pm and Saturday 2.00 pm – 4.00pm (except 16th April when the exhibition will not be open because of a ‘Come and Sing’ Messiah).

There will be a Circuit Service amongst the works of art on Sunday 10th April at 6.30pm. The exhibition will be open from 5.00pm for the occasion.

On Saturday 7th May 2.00pm – 4.00pm Rev Rachel Bending will lead ‘Visions of the Sacred – Looking More Deeply’, a creative participative workshop leading to worship. The workshop will be suitable for all ages and will be based around the themes of the exhibition.

The Supper at Emmaus
Ceri Richards



The Sacred in Healing



The Healing of the Lunatic boy
John Reilly

Volunteers – if you would like to volunteer to act as a 'host' to welcome visitors for some of the sessions, please e-mail Rev Jen Smith using the special e-mail address set up for the exhibition – ealinggreenexhibit@yahoo.co.uk. Jen will e-mail you a link to a special website where you can fill in details of when you would be available.

Volunteer training will take place on 9th April from 10.00am – 12.00pm.

Groups are invited to arrange special visits outside of general opening hours - contact: ealinggreenexhibit@yahoo.co.uk for more information.



Dawn Chorus

A glow in the east, faint fingers of dawn
A single bird wakes, and greets the dim rays
His voice fills the air, as morning takes form
And soon he is joined by a chorus of praise.

They praise for their life, and the end of the night
For perils survived, and hunters unfed.
They praise for the day, and the beauty of light
The praise for their flight; while we lay abed!

And yet, as we lay, and hear their fine song
Our praises join theirs, our hearts lift with joy.
We can't match their skill, but yet sing along
The birds and ourselves our voices employ

In worship of God, for gifts of new days
A cadence of song, dawn chorus of praise.

By Nigel Beeton

Performing at Kingsdown - 6th May 2017



Heinz Chapel Choir



University of Pittsburgh



For more than 75 years, the Heinz Chapel Choir has presented a cappella music from a variety of time periods and cultural traditions and in a wealth of languages. The Choir's home for the majority of its Pittsburgh performances is the Heinz Memorial Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus. The ensemble can be heard in the early fall Choral Showcase (with the Pitt Men's Glee Club and Women's Choral Ensemble), in their highly regarded holiday concert series (broadcast for the past 15 years on WQED-FM), in their spring concert, and at special University functions. The Heinz Chapel Choir is currently under the direction of its tenth conductor, Dr. Susan Rice.

An auditioned ensemble, the Choir is composed of students pursuing many and diverse areas of study in major, minor and certificate concentration. The talented members devote four hours per week for rehearsals, attend Choir Camp each semester, and receive one college credit for their participation.

The Heinz Chapel Choir tours regularly in the spring after the close of the academic semester.

The Queen is 'very grateful' for the nation's prayers

In a strong statement of faith, the Queen has said that she is 'very grateful' to the nation for its prayers for her and that she has felt God's 'faithfulness' during 64 years on the throne.

The comments – rare insights into the Queen's personal thoughts and Christian faith – came in the forward to a new book, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, published by Bible Society, HOPE and LICC.

Her Majesty said, 'I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.'

The book was published to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. In her comments, the Queen referred to the changes she has seen in her life, which has made her the longest-reigning monarch in British history.

'The extent and pace of change has been truly remarkable,' she said. 'We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies.' And she alluded to the current problems in the Middle East saying that the world is now experiencing 'terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale'.

The Queen's Christian faith is well-known. In recent years, Her Majesty has referred to her beliefs in public statements, including Christmas broadcasts.

The Servant Queen and the King She Serves highlights the Queen's faith and how it has shaped her personal life and service to the nation. A 12-page schools version has been published by Scripture Union.

Copies of *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves* are available in packs of 10 at £1 a copy (plus p&p).

Visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/thequeen to order copies and for ideas on how to hold a street party and Thanksgiving service.

Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday is on 21 April 2016
(With her official birthday celebration in June)

How will you be joining in the celebrations? It is surely a notable and historic event. Our CONGRATULATIONS and sincere good wishes to a truly remarkable and gracious lady.

23 April - St George - our patron saint (who isn't English) by David Winter

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

APRIL

- Mon 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 5 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - The Sunshine Keep Fit Club
- Wed 6 1 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly) (term time only)
- Thu 7 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 8 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 9 10.00 am to 12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
Methodist Modern Art Exhibition at Ealing Green opens,
see pp 22/23 for details
- Tue 12 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 19 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - The AGM plus Bingo and Quiz

MAY

- Sat 7 Kingsdown Book Fair with stalls. Proceeds for Christian Aid
- Sat 14 14.30 Healing Conference at Westminster Central Hall
(for details and to participate contact Elizabeth Burke at
eburke54@o2.co.uk by Saturday 16 April 2016)
- Sun 15 Worship Consultation, after morning service – everyone
encouraged to attend!

Future Events

- Sun 18th September 2016 - 10th Ealing BB 50th Birthday celebration
- Sat 6th May 2017 - Concert by Heinz Chapel Choir



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.