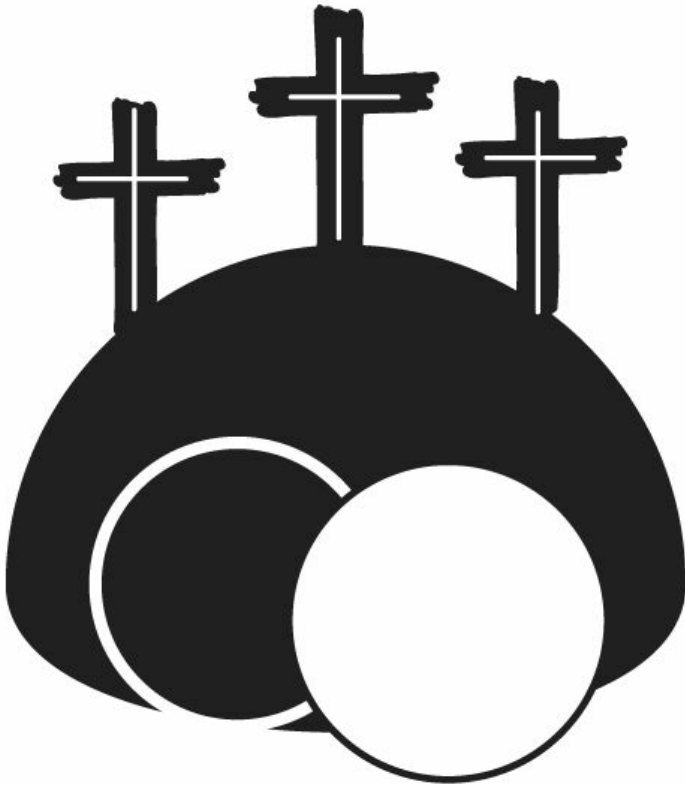




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



March 2016

SERVICES FOR MARCH



- 6 Mar 10.30 Local Arrangement
- 13 Mar 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family/Parade Service
6.00 Bible Study - 'We Make the Road by Walking'
- 20 Mar 10.30 Mrs Esther Ackah
PALM SUNDAY
- 24 Mar 6.30pm **Maunday Thursday** Evening Communion
- 25 Mar 3.30 **GOOD FRIDAY** Afternoon Meditation Service
- 27 Mar **EASTER DAY**
08.00 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family Service/Holy Communion



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



Sunday
27 March
1 Hour
Forward

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the April 2016 issue is Thursday 24 March 2016

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk



Dear friends,

If the end of February is anything to go by, it seems likely that our news in the coming month will be dominated by the run up to two elections: London Mayor and the EU referendum. Each time we participate in an election we're asked to imagine what kind of society we'd like to live in, what characterises a healthy society, and vote accordingly.

OK, I can already hear you shouting at this page. I know we can only vote for the candidates we're offered and the manifestos they give. I know that there may be times when it's difficult to find anyone you want to vote for. I know that we have come to expect that election promises last only until election night and may be swiftly forgotten. I know that it's unlikely that your vision of a healthy society is unlikely to find a perfect match in any manifesto.

However, all that being said, it is our responsibility and privilege to vote and to influence the way in which we are governed and the kind of society in which we live. Our chance to engage in the process does not only come at the ballot box. There will be hustings and meetings where we can voice our concerns and let candidates know what is important to us. The Chairs of the London District of the Methodist Church are hoping to meet with the Mayoral candidates to let them know our thoughts as a church, completing a process that began in an immensely moving district synod in September. As we consider the EU referendum, we are called to pray, discuss and let our voices be heard as we consider issues that affect not only our country but Europe and the rest of the world.

As we approach these elections we must consider whether we wish to further our own self-interest or whether we should be giving a voice to the needs of the weakest in society. There are many resources available from the Joint Public Issues Team calling on us to speak out about child poverty, benefits and benefit sanctions, and the environment, to name but a few. As we do so we use the characteristics of the Kingdom of God as our benchmark for a healthy society where the first shall be last and the last first, where peacemakers are celebrated and the humble raised, where all may have life in all its fullness, and resurrection brings life from the depths of despair.

May God bless you this Easter and beyond - love

FAMILY NEWS

Kathleen Loveridge is anxiously anticipating a knee replacement operation this month and we trust this will proceed as planned with a successful outcome.

The Rev Suva Catford has recently had a major operation and we send all good wishes from Kingsdown for a speedy recovery (don't try to get in that garden too soon!).

Please remember in your prayers, previous members, **Eileen Cox**, who is seriously ill at this time; and also **Lucille Cox** following the death of her husband **Rowle**.

We've also learned that **Jill Ward** has some further health problems at this time, as well as **Roy**, and we send them both all good wishes.

The Rev Cecil Smith continues to be rather unwell and we ask you to continue to remember him and his wife **Barbara** in your prayers, as well as all those mentioned above.

News from Lynda and Harold Blackburn in Ripon

I am still doing local preaching here and am on the last part of the training course. It has taken an age due to many circumstances but I have stopped worrying about it as reached the decision that it is better to read more as I study, grow in faith and deliver a better sermon than try to rush though to get to the end.

Harold is still barbershop singing with 2 choruses and learning the ukulele as one chorus has a ukulele group within its members. He is also still doing piano lessons. That all keeps him off the streets and from under my feet.

Ripon is a happy place and we enjoy our Church life here having made many friends. North Yorkshire is wonderful and every time I travel around I am struck by the beauty of our surroundings and our good fortune at being amid it.

With every best wish **Lynda**

Young Methodists

Young Methodists from across the country have taken the opportunity to share their priorities and passions for their Church, highlighted for the very first time in three new 'manifesto' documents.

Following research undertaken at the Methodist Children's and Youth Assembly, 3 Generate, three manifestos outlining the foci of the different age groups have been published online

<<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate/before-and-after-3generate/3generate-manifestos>>.

This new venture is intended to raise the voices of the young people of the Church and highlight the real and varied concerns close to their hearts.

Split into the three age group tiers of the assembly - 8-11s, 11-18s and 18-23s - the manifestos highlight many different issues important to young Methodists including: the environment, poverty, bullying, disability accessibility and the refugee crisis.

Craig Gaffney, Youth President of the Methodist Church added: "These statements are essential reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. It is vital that everyone in the Church engages with the voice of young people and the topics close to their hearts. All of the issues raised should be important to the whole Church and its membership and should be a regular focus for any Christian living out their faith."

Craig continued: "It's so encouraging to see that the young people of the Methodist Church are so passionate about social and global issues. I am proud to be part of a Church where even our youngest members have a heart for those in need."

Mystery of the Month

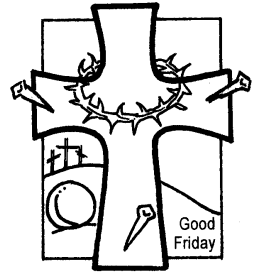
" How does Rachel know so much about God"?

Question posed by a Junior Church member

From June Thompson

The Ealing Passion Play

Churches Together in Ealing invite you to participate in the Ealing Passion Play 2016 on Good Friday 25th March as part of the crowd of bystanders who followed Jesus to Calvary. This exciting, powerful dramatic re-enactment of Jesus crucifixion will be our public witness to Jesus' Passion on a busy bank holiday in our town centre.



The aim of this event is to:

- * Provide a visual powerful, engaging and thought provoking re-enactment of Jesus' crucifixion.
- * 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 for them and the world. Invitations to Easter Services will be distributed.

The Programme

9.50am The Gathering (on Haven Green, near Ealing Broadway Station):

There will be hymns/songs, readings and prayers from 10-10.15am.

10.15am The Procession:

Some people will be asked to 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 when those gathered and passers-by will be invited to go into Christ the Saviour if they wish to light a candle and view art work featuring Jesus' passion.

Book Fair

The recent book fair raised £156 which will be split equally between Mwib (Methodist Women in Britain) and JMA (Junior Mission for All).

Many thanks to all who donated goods and/or helped on the day.

Jill Richardson.

BREAKFAST HELPERS WANTED

On **Easter Sunday morning** there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8 am as well as the usual service at 10.30 am. As is the custom at Kingsdown we will be having breakfast together in the hall following the eight o'clock service for anyone who would like to stay.



However, this can only happen if someone (or maybe two or three people) would like to offer their services to prepare the breakfast. If there is anyone who would like to do this please speak to either Sybil Corbin or myself.

Many thanks.

Kath Jarrett

Kingsdown Weekly Notices

Would anyone be willing to assist with producing the weekly church Notices, either on a regular (alternate months) or occasional basis (covering holidays, the next being early April)? I can explain what's required if you are interested – it's not a very complicated task, only requiring basic word processing skills.



Sue Barton, tel. (020) 8840 7704

Or

e-mail sue.garland6039@btinternet.com

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books Cakes
Traidcraft Bric-a-Brac

Saturday
12th March

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

Kingsdown Church – building repairs
and outreach work

Prayer for every day after Easter

Living, Almighty God,

Thank you that by your Spirit living in me, made possible by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, you give me all I need.

Like Peter, you forgive and re-commission me. Like Thomas, you meet me in ways tailor-made for me.

Lord, thank you for the daily personal “nudges” that assure me of your reality, your presence in my life, just when I need so much to know you are here.

Thank you that we are Easter People every day, because of Jesus, and in His name we pray. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

We believe in life before death



CHRISTIAN AID SUPPORTERS DAY was held on 28 January and as usual was a very informative and happy event. It was a very well attended afternoon meeting and I understand the evening session was also very well supported.

RISE Refreshed - Inspired - Supported and Equipped - in our crucial work of bringing an end to poverty. Loretta Mingella, Christian Aid CEO, gave a very inspired and challenging talk, and afterwards we were given a preview of Christian Aid Week 2016. This year we shall focus on **BANGLADESH**.

Who is my Neighbour?

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus - he asked Jesus "And who is my neighbour?" (Luke 10: 25,29).

The focus is on Bangladesh and Morsheda, a woman who lives in Bangladesh, **but she's still our neighbour**. Our churches can be part of an outpouring of love for our neighbours like Morsheda, in Christian Aid Week.

For Morsheda's family, and two million others living on low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River, floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. The single-room, corrugated iron shack she shares with her four children has been flooded four times. However, Christian Aid and partner GUK can help and Morsheda wants **us to ring doorbells**. Christian Aid has a Home Safety Package which costs just £250. That's enough to flood-proof our neighbour Morsheda's home, raising it by 6-8ft on an earth plinth, so that she has a safe place to rebuild, keep livestock and grow crops. It could also buy a goat and seeds, which will give her a long-term income and a solid foundation for a new life.

Morsheda wants us to ring a few doorbells - Please see the photo of her in the Church foyer. (I placed a photo of her recently on a board in the church foyer, but this appears to have been removed!)

Resource materials for this year are now available and include:

- a) 'Morsheda at the mercy of the floods' (main film) and other stories for CA week.

These include 2 films -

'The might river' and '£5 challenge' for young people

'Wonderful worms' for children.

You can watch these films using a standard DVD player or on your computer, and if you would like this DVD - PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

- b) Another resource 'A Seven Day devotional guide for Christian Aid Week - Who is my neighbour?' (a short Bible reading each day, a reflection, a prayer and our own response). I have ordered 50 of these so - again - PLEASE ASK FOR ONE.

- c) I have a copy of the sample Order of Service for Christian Aid Week, Which we shall not be using. It includes the commissioning prayer which we have shared for many years -

O God, you promise a world
Where those who now weep shall laugh,
Those who are hungry shall feast,
Those who are poor now,
And excluded, shall have your kingdom for their own.

**ALL We want this world too,
We renounce despair
We will act for change
We choose to be included
in your great feast of life.**

Amen

EVENTS FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Our Book Fair, with numerous stalls, will be held on Saturday, 7 May. We shall need cakes, plants, gifts and bric-a-brac, and shall be pleased to have your gifts for the stalls.



HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTING - 16 MAY to 21 MAY

FLAG DAY (London area) on 21 MAY

I shall be inviting those who have collected in previous years to do so again. A word we have heard quite frequently recently is OUR REACH. This is the only time of the year we GO OUT to our neighbours. Remember Morsheda, - she urgently needs us to RING A FEW DOORBELLS.

ANNA will take part again in the **CIRCLE THE CITY** sponsored walk. The date for this is **SUNDAY 22 MAY** and if you wish to join her, please do let me know. She will then arrange a Eventbrite ticket for all who are taking part.

Ruby Warne



Caring for each other

As a church we seek to care for each other and to safeguard the wellbeing of all who are part of our community. This takes on many forms.



At present we are reviewing our health and safety policies and in particular our evacuation procedures. This has highlighted our need for us all to be responsible for each other.

As part of this we are asking **every member of the congregation** to commit to

- **get to know the people seated around them each Sunday**
- **notice who is present at worship that day**
- **let the minister or stewards know if someone is missing so that we can check that they are alright**
- **if we have to evacuate, to go to the assembly point (outside Tesco's) and check that everyone who was seated near you has arrived safely and let the stewards know if anyone is missing.**

Holy Week and Easter 2016

Along with others up and down the country, churches in Ealing Trinity Methodist Circuit will be holding special services to mark these events. This page gives you full details of our services during Holy Week and Easter.

Acton Hill

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 9.30am 3.00pm |
| Maundy Thursday | 24 th March | 7.00pm <i>with foot washing</i> |
| Good Friday | 25 th March | 11.00am <i>Ecumenical service</i> |
| Easter Sunday | 26 th March | 9.30am <i>Holy Communion</i> |

Ealing Green

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|---|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 11.00am |
| Good Friday | 25 th March | 9.30am |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 8.00am <i>Holy Communion</i> 11.00am |

Greenford

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 11.00am 6.30pm |
| Maundy Thursday | 24 th March | 7.30pm |
| Good Friday | 25 th March | 3.00pm |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 11.00am 6.30pm <i>Holy Communion</i> |

Hanwell

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 11.00am |
| Good Friday | 25 th March | 10.30am |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 11.00am <i>Holy Communion</i> |

Kingsdown

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 10.30am |
| Maundy Thursday | 24 th March | 8.30pm |
| Good Friday | 25 th March | 3.30pm |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 8.00am <i>Holy Communion</i> 10.30am <i>Holy Communion</i> |

King's Hall (Urdu speaking) Hamborough Primary School,

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 1.00pm |
| Maundy Thursday | 24 th March | 6.00pm outside King's Hall |
| Good Friday | 25 th March | 12.00 - 3.00pm |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 1.00pm Holy Communion |

Northolt

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 11.00am Holy Communion |
| Good Friday | 24 th March | 11.15am Northolt clock tower |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 11.00am Holy Communion |

Pitshanger

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | 20 th March | 10.30am |
| Easter Sunday | 27 th March | 10.30am Holy Communion |

Good Friday, 25th March

Churches Together in Ealing Re-enactment of the Crucifixion

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10.00am | The Gathering at Haven Green |
| 10.15am | Procession through Ealing Broadway to Christ the Saviour Church |
| 10.45am | Re-enactment of the Crucifixion |

Saturday 26th March

Jesus on the Streets

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1pm & 3pm | The Southall Council of Churches' Easter Drama |
|-----------|--|



**"Our life is fritted away by detail....simplify, simplify"
Henry David Thoreau**



ADVOCACY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the UK, we work with talented campaigning partners to highlight the underlying causes of poverty and speak out against injustice. We seek to influence policy around three key issues that directly affect the quality of life of some of the world's most vulnerable people. These are;

Trade - Debt - Climate change.

Many of the problems faced by poor communities can be partly attributed to the policies and practices of governments and companies from rich countries like the UK. This is why we are committed to inspiring our supporters to speak out as a courageous and prophetic voice calling for justice for the poor and vulnerable.

Education

We believe that it is essential to resource churches, schools and individuals to do all they can as active global citizens to make a tangible difference in our world. We do this in a variety of ways, for example you can download resources:

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/downloads/resources/campaigns/jubilee-economics08.14.pdf>

This resource, produced with All We Can's campaign partners Jubilee Debt Campaign, contains six Bible studies for Christians and churches on faith and economics.

World Action in Methodist Schools

The World AIMS programme was developed in partnership with Methodist Education on behalf of the Methodist Church. Through the programme we support Methodist schools across England and Wales to promote global citizenship with students aged 3-18 years old. The programme offers a bespoke curriculum for each school based on their needs and provides teacher training, interactive resources and activities for students to explore global issues.

The 13 Commandments?

"I come from a people who gave the ten commandments to the world.

Time has come to strengthen them by three additional ones which we ought to adopt and commit ourselves to:

thou shall not be a perpetrator;

thou shall not be a victim; and

thou shall never, but never, be a bystander".

Yehuda Bauer, Israeli historian in a speech to the German Bundestag 1998.

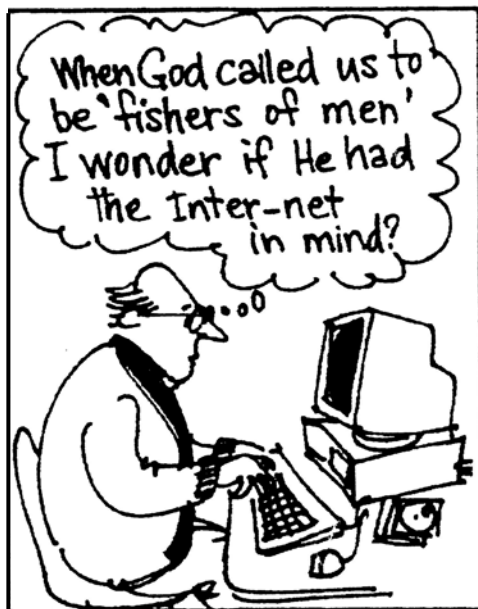
From June Thompson

THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Thank you for all the items in the box during the past month - stamps - specs - and a bag of foreign coins.

Please keep the box full - also with socks and mobile 'phones, please!

Ruby Warne



Methodist Modern Art Collection

Visions of the Sacred

From 9th April – 22nd May, Ealing Green will host an exhibition of the Methodist Modern Art Collection. Remember the £5,000 'Talents' mission grants churches had back in 2014/3? This is what Ealing Green decided to do with its 'Talents' money on behalf of the whole Circuit.

There is a core team for the exhibition, but could you spend two hours for one afternoon simply attending and keeping the doors open? The aim is to have the exhibit open at least 4 afternoons and one evening per week (in addition to scheduled group visits) for drop-in visitors.

The mission is not the exhibition itself, but the ways in which people of all faiths and none respond to it. Do you want to bring a group of friends, a house or prayer group, or other group in which you are involved? How might we use it to provoke, deepen, nourish our own thinking about the sacred, in the reality of the world as we know it?

Twenty-four works of art take the visitor through a journey of reflection about what it is to claim the sacred in struggle, in healing, and in hospitality. If you are interested, email Rev Jen Smith-jennifer.methodist@yahoo.co.uk

The Dalit Madonna -

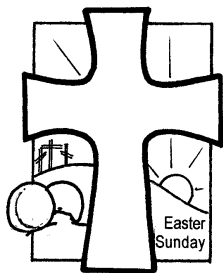
Jyoti Safi



Crucifixion Polyptych -

Francis Hoyland





27 MARCH - EASTER DAY

THE MOST JOYFUL DAY OF THE YEAR

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins.

We are forgiven. Christ has risen!
We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy!
Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring.

Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

A prayer with the events at Calais in mind

God of all humanity

When your people were enslaved and displaced,

You led them to a land that they could call home;

When your people were in exile;

Your promise was that one day,

They would live in streets of play and laughter.

When your disciples were afraid and uncertain,

You spoke of a Fathers House

With mansions and places prepared.

We pray today for all those who have no place to call home,

Hearing the heart-cry of your word,

And for those who are without refuge.

Where shelter is ours to offer,

Grant us the will and resolve to reflect the generosity of our Creator.

Where others stand in the way of those who need safe haven

May our cry for justice never falter.

May the idols of self-interest and economic gain

Never deflect us from the ways of your Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

(Rev Phil Jump)

24 March Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

25 March Good Friday – the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

B Bible Society



This compact paperback opens up the questions surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus and helps people discover and decide if there might be more to Easter than just chocolate eggs and bunny rabbits.

It follows in the footsteps of the other titles in this growing collection of short introductions to the Bible and Christianity, and is an ideal introduction for those new to church and those with questions about Christianity and faith.

At just £1.99 it also makes an attractive outreach tool for churches who want to connect with both young people and adults in their community – helping to tackle key questions about Jesus.

Visit the [Bible Society online shop](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/) to order your copies in English or Welsh for just £1.99 each (plus P&P). Or get 25% off when you order 10 or more copies. <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

Observations on Life ...

Four freedoms: The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want.... everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear... anywhere in the world.

Franklin D Roosevelt

The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every source of wickedness"

Joseph Conrad, *Under Western Eyes* (1911)

How nice to see you!

I got myself ready and jumped in my car;
I drove to my church – it wasn't that far.
As I bowed for the prayer, an old man came in;
He sat in my pew and gave me a grin
He looked rather shabby, especially his shoes,
I smiled back at him – I'd nothing to lose.
Then during the prayer his old shoe touched mine;
Don't worry, I thought, I'm sure I'll be fine.
Dear Father, I prayed, this man has no pride,
His shoes are so dirty, with holes in the side.
The prayer was concluded, the man said Amen,
And all I could think was they must be size ten.
My background had told me 'twas wrong just to stare,
But this man was different from all of us there.
The prayer time was ended, the singing began,
I couldn't believe what I heard from this man.
He sounded sincere, his hands were held high;
I'm sure he meant what he sang – but did I?
And then came the offering, I stared when I saw
That the old man appeared to be giving much more.
The sermon - it bored me to tears, that's no lie,
But I noticed the man had a tear in his eye.
At the end of the service, the custom is here
To greet other people, especially those near.
I turned to the man and held out my hand,
He took it and shook it, his skin was so tanned.
I thanked him for coming - for being our guest;
I told him his singing had left me impressed.
He said, 'My names' Charlie," a tear in his eye
And he told me that I was the first to say Hi.
He said, "My appearance is not like the rest,
But I do really try to look at my best."
My heart filled with pain and I stifled a tear
When he said he was sorry for sitting so near.
I felt so embarrassed, he spoke from the heart,
I wanted to chat, but where could I start?
"You've touched me," I said, "and you've made it quite clear
That no-one's left out in our fellowship here."



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are 'Madatum novum da vobis' – a new commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John's Gospel, chapter 13.

Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can't see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

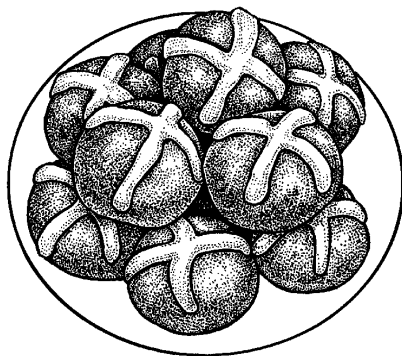
HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme...

Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare,
see how many words you can make from the letters in the words HOT CROSS BUNS. Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?

A hot cross bunny.

Why couldn't the rabbit fly home for Easter?

He didn't have the hare fare.

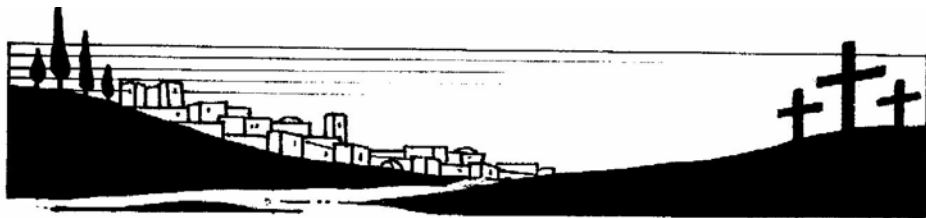
EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MARCH

- Mon 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 1 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - All Things Welsh. A talk by the Rev Rachel Bending
- Wed 2 1 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly) (term time only)
- Thu 3 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 4 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 5 10.00 am to 12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
10.30 am - 4 pm Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar at Hanwell
- Tue 8 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
8 pm CIRCUIT MEETING AT NORTHOLT
- Sat 12 10.00 - 12.30 pm Book Fair with stalls: cakes, bric-a-brac, Traidcraft. Admission 40p. Proceeds to Kingsdown Church - building repairs and outreach work
- Tue 15 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Dave Entertains

APRIL

- Sat 9 Methodist Modern Art Exhibition at Ealing Green opens (see p. 16 for further details.)
- Sun 10 6.30 pm Circuit Service at Ealing Green



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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.