



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



September 2016

*Starting the 58th Year
of continuous Publication!*

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER



- 4 Sep 10.30 Rev Rev Randolph Turner
- 11 Sep 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
- 18 Sep 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, BB Anniversary
- 25 Sep 10.30 Mrs Rachel Kamara
- 2 Oct** 10.30 Mr Mark Budu-Manuel
-



Kingsdown Church Away Day

Our church Away Day will be on Saturday 24th September. Please sign up on the attendance sheet on the foyer notice board remembering to indicate if you require transport. If you aren't at church to sign, please email Rachel to let her know you wish to attend and if you will need transport.

Our leader for the Away Day will be Rev Dave Tomlinson, the Anglican vicar of a thriving London church and the author of a number of thought-provoking and very readable books including "The Bad Christian's Manifesto" and "Re-enchanting Christianity".

See Gerald Barton's review of Rev Tomlinson's books on page 13.



The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the October 2016 issue is Friday 23 September 2016

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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Dear Friends

Welcome to the first Messenger of the new church year. This September we welcome two new ministers to our Circuit, Rev Yemi Jaiyesimi and Rev Shirlyn Toppin. They were welcomed at a special Circuit Welcome Service on Saturday 3rd September at Hanwell Methodist Church. Please remember them in your prayers as they begin to settle in and find their way around the circuit.

This September also brings an important anniversary in Kingsdown's life: our Boys Brigade company marks 50 years since its opening on Sunday 18th September. I'm sure some of you will remember its beginnings, just as many of you will have been part of it over the years. We hope to have a packed church that morning to celebrate.

The following weekend gives a chance to reflect and learn together on our church Away Day. Rev'd Dave Tomlinson who is an author and CofE vicar has agreed to come and lead us in what promises to be a highly interesting day. I hope that you will be able to join us. We've had to move the date due to Dave's availability. So the day is now on Saturday 24th September. As this is also the date of the Christian Aid sponsored walk, we'll take a collection for Christian Aid during the day.

Looking further ahead, Kings Hall celebrate their Centenary on Saturday 15th October. Please join us and support the members of the Kings Hall class meeting.

I hope that you are looking forward to the coming year as much as I am. God bless.

Fiona Lovell has kindly offered to help produce the weekly Notices and will be taking over from Sue Barton for September. Fiona's contact details are tel. (020) 8840 8615 or email fionalovell@outlook.com and information should be sent by the previous Wednesday evening.

To see if we can reduce our use of paper, if you receive these Notices by email and don't also need a paper copy, please don't take one on Sundays – many thanks!

Sue Barton

Family News

Many thanks to all my Kingsdown friends for their cards and messages as I finally moved into my Brentford flat on 3 August. It's too early to say that I'm settled in, but I am very happy in my new home.

16 Numa Court, Justin Close, Brentford TW8 8QG .
Phone: 020 8560 2806 Email and Mobile as before.

Kathleen Loveridge

The wedding took place of Emilia Sassa and Raimundo Baptista, at Kingsdown on Saturday, 23 July 2016, attended by their children Alisha and Junior (Raimundo), and family and friends (including many of our church family). It was a very happy occasion and we wish the couple and their family every blessing and happiness in their future lives together. A big 'Thank You' to everyone in the church family who contributed in any way to preparing the church for the wedding (but especially Ivy Hanson and her flowers) and making the day so special.

The christening took place at Kingsdown on Sunday, 31 July 2016, of Odessa Raven Thorpe (born on 7 August 2015), with her mother Donna Clark and father Darren Thorpe, accompanied by family and friends in attendance. We wish Odessa and her family every blessing.

Patrick Teye went to Ghana on 19 August for the burial of his mother's body.

The Rev Roger Dunlop, a previous Minister at Kingsdown, is to marry Catherine Morris at Northwood Methodist Church at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 17 September. Roger writes that he very much appreciates the encouragement and prayers of his friends at Kingsdown. We send them both sincere congratulations, blessings and good wishes for their future happiness from all at Kingsdown.

Coincidentally, the following news has also been received and we add our congratulations and sincere good wishes.

Congratulations to Ruth Dunlop and Roger Boulton who announced their engagement during the summer. They are preparing to set up home in York where Ruth starts her new job as Head of Human Resources for York Minster at the beginning of October. The wedding date has not yet been set, but will probably be early next year.

Kathleen Loveridge.

Eric Maynard

It is with sadness that I am writing of the death (on Sunday, 7 August 2016, of a former Minister of Kingsdown, the Rev Eric Maynard. I realise that it will only be a few who remember him and I am lucky enough to be one of them, and also counted him as a friend.

Eric was a larger than life man, big in stature, big in heart and also blessed with kindness and gentleness. He had served in the Marines before his calling to the Ministry of God. He spoke and preached with great humility and warmth but, at the same time, great belief and strength.

It was through him that I became a member at Kingsdown in October 1973 and shortly after this becoming an officer in the Boys Brigade.

Following the death of the Captain Joe Yates and the move of his successor Charles Girdwood to Winchester, I was appointed captain in 1979. I still have in my possession the letter from Eric, who, by now, had moved on to Sittingbourne, congratulating me and offering me and my family encouragement on the work that lay ahead in the Brigade.

I served as Captain for 19 wonderful years, keeping in touch with Eric and wife Doreen until his retirement in Chandlers Ford, Hants.

We last met about 18 months ago when Marion, my wife and I, were on a trip to the New Forest, stopped off at Eric's home, lunched together and spent a couple of hours reminiscing about the past, as you tend to do, before we continued our journey.

Always remembered as a friend, with great affection.

Dave Lewis

NIGHT MARKET

On Saturday 9th July we had a table at the Mums in Business Night Market held here at Kingsdown. We raised £133 for Church funds and would like to thank all who gave articles for the stall and anyone who helped in any way.

Jill Richardson, Kath Jarrett, Hazel Pennells

Thank you Hazel

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books



Cakes



Gifts

Bric-a-Brac

**Saturday 17th
September**

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:



Methodist
relief and
development

All We Can – Book Fair and Harvest Appeal

The next Book Fair will be on Saturday 17th September 2016, in aid of All We Can (the relief and development charity of the Methodist Church). Offers of help on stalls on the day as well as contributions of cakes, toiletries, and bric-a-brac will be very much appreciated. Hoping for a fine day and good turn out. Please contact Pam or Alan Smith if you have any queries on 020 8840 4803.

Envelopes for All We Can's Harvest Appeal 'Make a Splash' will be in the church pews on Sundays, 11/18 & 25 September - if you wish to donate envelopes should be added to the weekly offering.

**On Sunday 18th September
10th Ealing Boys' Brigade
will be celebrating its 50th Birthday**



In October 1966, Kingsdown's Boys' Brigade Company (10th Ealing) opened its doors for the very first time. Revd George Howarth, Mr Tony Keast and Mr Clive Pennells welcomed twenty young Boys on to the Church premises for an evening of fun and adventure.

And fifty years later, 10th Ealing is still going strong. The years have seen many changes, but the twin pillars of faith and discipline continue to underpin our work. With seventy-five Boys on the register, we are the largest BB Company in West London, and we still excel in traditional Brigade events such as Band, Drill, Gymnastics, Athletics, Football and Camping (we've just returned safely from our latest week-long venture in Wales).



Picture: our first ever Company photograph from May 1970

We have invited old BB Boys from the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and all the way up to the present day to attend. Retired Officers and Camp Staff will also be travelling hundreds of miles to meet up for this wonderful day.

It is our hope that every single current member of the Company will be present for this joy-filled historic event, which will be remembered for

many years to come. It would be excellent for us to show the previous generations that 10th Ealing BB is still very much alive and kicking and that the standards are as high as they were in years gone by.

On that Sunday, we will parade around the neighbourhood as usual from 10am, and the Church service will begin at 10:30am. This will be followed by a social time with cakes, refreshments and lots of opportunities for photographs to be taken, and a chance for our Boys to meet their predecessors.

To mark our fiftieth birthday, the Church has kindly agreed to hold a special Thanksgiving Church Parade on Sunday 18th October at the usual time of 10:30am. Many Old Boys, ex-Staff and helpers have been invited to attend in order to celebrate and reminisce and we do hope that all of the Church Family will gather to celebrate with us.

If you know of anyone with 10th Ealing BB connections then please do invite them along: we're trying to invite as many people as possible but there are some contact details that we just don't have, and it would be so sad to miss anyone out.

All parents, families and ex-BB members are very warmly invited too.

Please mark the date in your diary -- Sunday 18th September 2016 -- a very special day indeed for our BB Company.

Fifty years ago, our Church gave us a mission to advance Christ's Kingdom among Boys -- long may that mission continue.

Tony Plews
Captain

"SINGING THE BLUES"

Those of you who enjoyed the Sermons from the summer Series on 'Psalms of Lament' may wish to take a copy published as a booklet which can be found in the church foyer.

Summer Camp 2016

I'm pleased to report that BB Camp 2016 was a great success and all Campers are home, happy and safe. The week was a great success and will be remembered as one of our happiest camps ever.



The picture was snapped at our final night party which overflowed with laughter and joy.

I'd like to say a huge Thank You to all Boys and Staff for ensuring that the Happy Families Camp truly lived up to its name!

Tony Plews, Captain

God's grace distilling

*The grace of God on you distil,
The grace of Christ bedewing fill,
The grace of Spirit flowing still
Each day and night upon you pour
Of this life's share for you in store;
O day and night upon you pour
Of this life's share for you in store.*

From Poems of the Western Highlanders



Make a Splash Appeal 2016

All We Can is working with partners to provide fresh clean water for communities that currently rely on unsafe sources but needs your help to fund this work.

There will be Gift Aid envelopes in the Church on Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th September so you can donate to the 'Make a Splash' appeal.

Try this quiz

To test your knowledge about water supplies in developing countries in the quiz below - the answers are on page 27.

1. How much would a 20 litre jerry can filled with water weigh?
A: 5 kilos B: 10 kilos C: 20 kilos
2. What is the average distance a woman in a developing country walks to collect water?
A: 1 mile B: 2.5 miles C: 3.7 miles
3. The world's women and children spend how many hours each day collecting water?
A: 100 million B: 125 million C: 150 million
4. How many schools in the world lack access to safe water and adequate Sanitation?
A: A quarter B: A third C: A half
5. How many people in the world lack access to safe water?
A: 300 million B: 580 million C: 650 million
6. How much water does a person living in the UK use each day?
A: 50 litres B: 100 litres C: 150 litres

Make a Splash Appeal 2016

Please support All We Can's work in some of the world's poorest Communities.

£18 could provide a child with clean water and good sanitation at school.

£33 could train communities to manage and maintain a water pump, ensuring clean water is always available.

£42 could provide parents with the training and tools to improve hygiene and sanitation at home, improving the health of the whole family.



Kingsdown's Charity of the Year 2016/7

is Hope for Southall's Street Homeless



This is a community initiative working in partnership with statutory agencies, charities, community and faith groups to provide holistic support for people who are street homeless in Southall.

It is anticipated that the arrangements for COTY 2016/7 will follow a similar pattern to previous years - ie a Harvest collection of goods and/or money, Christmas fundraising including the Gifts Sunday, and finally the book fair in March 2017.

Further details have still to be worked out and more information will be made available nearer the time. The initiative is a registered charity-more information on the website www.hssh.org.uk.

I hope Kingsdown will respond generously to the needs of this initiative.

More details are given in the following article by John Murphy.

Olwen Britton

Kingsdown Charity of the Year - 2016-17

Hope for Southall Street Homeless

The Night Shelter run by Hope for Southall Street Homeless, a registered charity, opened on January 6th this year as a Winter Night Shelter, for homeless people within Southall. On Tuesday 29 March, 48 hours after Easter Sunday, the project began a new phase, now becoming a continuing shelter, again for people sleeping rough on streets and sites in Southall.



Why the focus on Southall? Representatives of the local churches and the main Gurdwara regarded the level of rough sleeping in Southall as especially high. The priest whose Church grounds regularly had 6 to 8 men sleeping along its walls described this as 'the most visible sign of social injustice'. At that time, early in 2015, Ealing had the 8th highest level of street homeless across the London Boroughs. This inter-faith group created the charity Hope for Southall Street Homeless (HSSH) with the aim of *Enabling people to take ways out of rough sleeping which result in them leading fulfilled lives.*

How can the shelter do that? As well as providing an evening meal, a bed and breakfast, the shelter works in partnership with St Mungo's (Homelessness organisation), which refers the guests; with StreetMed which works to ensure guests have GPs and gets hospital appointments, with RISE Ealing's Alcohol and Drugs Addiction Unit, and with Refugee Action for immigration advice and legal casework. It is the continuing work of these services which HSSH believes will assist people to break the patterns of entrenched homelessness.

The strength of HSSH lies in the local community, volunteers especially making it possible to keep the shelter open from week to week. This being the first year, we are all still learning 'what it takes' to keep the service going, and are grateful when support comes suddenly and as a surprise from a neighbour community!

John Murphy
Temporary Manager

Gerald Barton looks at David Tomlinson's

'Re-enchanting Christianity'

Readers of the Methodist Recorder will be aware that the continuing decline in membership and attendance at our churches has been exercising various correspondents of late. The message is stark, and has been for some time. The Methodist Church of Great Britain is on the slide. One recent letter described how, three years ago the writer's chapel had to close after 119 years. The decline, he felt had probably set in 50 years ago. Despite active efforts to become family-friendly, and welcoming with social and community activities, numbers had dwindled to the point where the chapel was no longer sustainable. People had come, but had not stayed to join in the worshipping life of the chapel. The writer went on to describe how he felt that, for people outside the church, what goes on inside with its peculiar language and customs has little, if anything to do with their daily lives. In sum, 'church' as we know it was irrelevant to them.

I grew up attending the local Methodist church on the Hartcliffe housing estate in Bristol. However, the faith which I acquired as a youngster did not withstand my university studies. As an organist, I stayed associated with the church, but did not regard myself as 'belonging' to it. For quite some years I stopped going to church altogether, hanging up my organ shoes in the process. I can certainly attest that stepping outside the church does not cause the sky to fall in. Life goes on – work, play, social activity and so on. When I lived in Palmers Green I recall passing the local Baptist church on the number 29 bus. It had

a notice outside saying "Seven Days without Church makes One Weak". The pun was amusing in its way, but the message was essentially nonsense – if you're outside the church, you almost certainly do not feel any the weaker for it.

On another occasion outside the Safeway supermarket in Wood Green, members of the Southgate Evangelical Tabernacle were evangelising. The message, which was being barked out by a man with a very hoarse voice, was that "God had to have blood in order for our sins to be forgiven. That's why Jesus had to die on the cross". The queue for the bus did not exactly look convinced, or interested for that matter. The language made no sense to them, whatever one might make of the message, which I have to say made God seem a pretty strange blood-thirsty character. This question of language came home to me when I attended an Alpha course in the mid-90's. Having not attended church for some years, I was struck that the language of Christianity was one I recognised, but had not heard for quite some years. The language we speak in church is not one that is much used outside. Little wonder that there is a disconnect.

The question which has to exercise our minds is whether the church and Christianity can connect with people again. Once people regard Christianity and the church as irrelevant, they no longer listen. It then doesn't matter how good the message, it just gets lost. I recently read a book entitled '*Re-enchanting Christianity*' by Dave Tomlinson which attempts to

address this question. The author is an Anglican priest at the liberal high church end of the spectrum. He grew up in a Brethren chapel, moved into the house church movement following a 'charismatic' experience and became one of its leading lights before becoming dis-encharmed with its fundamentalist conservatism and moving on again into the Anglican priesthood.

Tomlinson's faith has not been static. Whilst many of us might feel that faith ought to be something that grows and deepens over time in a smooth progression, he argues that faith goes in 'arcs'. The faith one has at any given time may not withstand the test of time and may have to be given up. Given up, that is in order to move on to something more profound, retaining what is most valuable but shedding what is no longer tenable. One arc gives way to another. For Tomlinson, the narrow faith of the Brethren chapel had to give way to something new following his charismatic experience. That new faith lasted for many years, but eventually he had to move on again finding that, in its turn that faith had ceased to be up to dealing with life as he was experiencing it. Perhaps in the future he will experience the need to make further moves. He doesn't rule that out.

The saddest thing for Tomlinson is that many people who grew up in the church drift away when they find their early faith wanting. They assume that there is only one way of faith, and having lost it, close the book and largely forget about it. Indeed, he believes that within the church, many regard faith as essentially fixed and that doubting shows a kind of weakness which should remain hidden. Faith, he argues is something that waxes and wanes. Doubting is not just normal, but essential if there is to

be growth in faith. Within the church there needs to be space for people to doubt, and to express those doubts without feeling that they are somehow 'second class' Christians, out of place or simply not welcome.

Tomlinson seeks to address some of the reasons why the church fails to connect with people as well as expounding on aspects of Christian faith and belief. In various areas he shows that some of what we might take to be the church's settled teaching - the nature of the atonement for instance, is but one way of interpreting things. He might seem liberal to some in the views he expresses, but his message isn't simply that we must 'move with the times' and abandon chunks of traditional belief. He is clear that Christ, and the person of Christ is absolutely central to his Christian belief. Christ, he asserts is the decisive embodiment of God's message to humankind. So, it isn't just Christ's message that's important, but that through Christ God enters this world and becomes part of it.

That said, Tomlinson firmly believes that the church must take account of how society has developed and evolved over time. This involves recognising that much of Christian belief was formulated in very different circumstances from today's society. Religion (whether Christian or any other) needs to develop and adapt in order to continue to speak to people in ways they can relate to and to be able to respond to their deepest needs.

Many Christians (still) take the Bible literally. Evolution is loudly rejected by many in the United States on the basis that it contradicts 'God's Word'. Yet it seems foolish to try to maintain that the Bible is some kind of repository of *scientific* truth. Science has its

own very powerful methods of enquiry and discovery. These have changed the way we view the world immeasurably, and will continue to do so. Our faith needs to encompass this vast increase in our knowledge or risk becoming an irrelevance. The prophets of the Old Testament, and Jesus himself, I'm sure would have thought the world to be flat, because that's what people believed then. We would scarcely want to continue to assert that the earth is flat just because it formed part of the world view at the times when the various books of the Bible were being written.

Similarly, we cannot ignore the ways in which society has changed. At the height of the slave trade, many would have used various Biblical passages to justify slavery. Some slaves refused to read Paul's letters because of his statement 'slaves be obedient to them that are your masters' and the way Christian ministers used that passage in preaching to them. Similarly, one can cite passages from Exodus and Leviticus that regulate (and therefore condone) slavery. For example, Leviticus 25:44 clearly allows the ownership of slaves, but only if they are taken from neighbouring nations. Doubtless, many of these passages would have regulated and ameliorated the practices of the day and may have reflected advances in the way people were treated at that time. Using them to justify slavery *now* would, however fly in the face of all we believe.

So, how does Tomlinson suggest we approach the Bible? We need, he says to read it critically. He starts from a presumption of God's all-inclusive love and justice. Does a given passage seem to exclude some group of people or other? If so, maybe it belongs to a different era and

should be laid aside. Read in this fashion, Tomlinson believes the Bible retains its relevance for contemporary society.

Society in Britain today is vastly different from what it was a hundred, two hundred or three hundred years ago. One prominent change is the mixing of cultures and religions in our contemporary society. Like it or not, religions rub up against each other. The days when this country could be regarded as simply 'Christian' have passed. It is now not just multi-cultural, but multi-religious. This poses a problem, and not just for Christians, but for all people of faith. This might be summed up in a conversation heard by a primary school teacher between two children of different faiths,

"Jesus is the Son of God you know."

"No, he's not"

"Yes, he is."

"No, he's not."..... and so on, ad infinitum.

In truth, we have no way of deciding between the truth of different religions. Arguments to support why my religion is more true than the other man's come from within the religion itself. There is no way of comparing them on some common basis and determining which is 'true' and which 'false'. Christians believe that Christ embodies God's decisive message to humankind, Muslims believe the Qur'an contains God's final message. One can decide which one *prefers*, but not determine which is true and which, therefore is false.

Tomlinson argues that we need to respect people of other faiths. In all likelihood the various religions all contain at least something of God's message which means

there will be something we can all learn from each other. That does not, however mean compromising our own beliefs, but respecting and listening to each other. The problem, in truth is not new. Christianity has lived with it for some centuries ever since Catholic and Orthodox diverged, and Protestant diverged from Catholic.

A further trend that Tomlinson notes can be characterised as 'spiritual but not religious'. This reflects a desire amongst many people to develop a sense of the depth and mystery of life. A casual look in many bookshops will show extensive 'mind - body - spirit' sections indicating a demand for things 'spiritual' but outside of traditional religious frameworks. Much of this might be described as 'New Age', but it reflects a wide thirst for the spiritual nonetheless. By and large this thirst has not been satisfied by the church. Tomlinson goes further and notes that this thirst for something 'more' also exists within the church.

Often, however Tomlinson finds that Christian spirituality is one of 'exile' and can be traced back to the Gnostic idea that things material are essentially evil whilst things of the spirit are essentially good. 'Spirituality' has often been viewed as a process of trying to transcend the material, and the body in particular with all its desires, in search of a higher, spiritual plane. If I close my eyes for a moment one image of spirituality that comes to mind is of something closed in, frigid and dry, lacking the marvellous sense of joy and wonder that comes if I imagine standing high on a hill viewing a vast panorama of countryside on a bright summer's day. Spirituality needs to embrace a sense of the sacred permeating our lives and the world around us, that we can find a sense of God in all things. In short

a spirituality of 'belonging', a sense that we belong here, in this world, in these bodies, that God has given us these things to cherish and enjoy. As an old Jewish saying has it, "a good person will have to give account on the judgement day of all the good things which he or she has refused to enjoy when they might have done so".

For Tomlinson, Holy Communion is the central symbol of this spirituality of belonging. Holy Communion, as he puts it "*not only celebrates the love that God revealed in Christ, but also declares boldly that both the natural creation and the realm of human endeavour can bear the divine.*"

The foregoing gives a flavour of some of the issues Tomlinson raises. In the final chapter of his book, he sets out some ideas as a kind of 'mission statement' for the church in the 21st century under a series of five headings –

1. Christian mission requires a 'kingdom' rather than a 'church' orientation.

By this Tomlinson means a focus on Christ's central message of love, healing, hope, new life, justice, empowerment and liberation. This is about the possibility of transforming lives through an experience of the love of God, rather than the perpetuation of the Church. It is about God's love transforming not just individuals, but communities and ultimately the world.

2. Christian mission needs to be focused on spirituality rather than apologetics

Tomlinson suggests that far from becoming ever more secular, contemporary society is seeing a growth in 'spirituality'. A significant proportion of people (76% according to

some surveys) admit to having had ‘spiritual experiences’. The church needs to connect with these experiences by offering people a deeper sense of the mystery of God’s loving presence in their lives. Worship needs to move from being ‘devotional’ to being ‘spiritual’ embracing art as meditation, workshops on different approaches to prayer, deepening self-awareness, discussions on the meaning of Christianity for us today and so on.

3. Christian mission needs to be holistic rather than dualistic

By this, Tomlinson means that our mission should speak to the whole person, body-mind-spirit. A focus on ‘saving souls’ is too narrow, focussing on only a part of our being. He goes further and argues that holistic mission should embrace the world that God has given us. This leads to a greater concern and care for the world around us – the environment, matters of our communities and social justice both at home and in the wider world.

4. Christian mission needs to be dialogical rather than monological

Here Tomlinson is contrasting monologue with dialogue. Monologues are spoken by one person, dialogues by two, if not more. Much of the time the church has spoken to, or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say, at people. Has it listened? To engage with people, to pursue a dialogue with them implies listening to what they have to say

and, perhaps letting ourselves be changed by them.

5. Christian mission needs to find expression through open, empowering church communities

Tomlinson sees the church as a place to ‘belong’, a place which is genuinely open to all comers whoever they may be and whatever their position on matters of faith. The contrast is between ‘believing before belonging’, ie having to be a ‘Christian’ before you can belong in a church community, to one where there is a place for everyone irrespective of where they are on their faith ‘journey’. In other words, belonging should not be a matter of having been ‘converted’ or ‘saved’, but simply being on a faith journey in a community which encourages and accepts expression of where we are on that journey.

‘Re-enchanting Christianity’ is a powerful and challenging book and I don’t think I’ve really done it full justice. It’s well worth reading for one thing is sure, without finding ways to connect, or re-connect Christianity with the world as it now is, the church will remain on a path of long-term decline.

Gerald Barton

‘Re-enchanting Christianity’ by Dave Tomlinson was published in 2008 by Canterbury Press, price £9.99.

*This article was originally printed in **In Touch***

I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I wish to be; I am not what I hope to be; but by the grace of God I am not what I was. (John Newton)

KINGSDOWN CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND .

WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH FROM 2.00 TO 4.00PM.

TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT. PLEASE
CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS [TEL. NO. 0208 567 4205] FOR DETAILS.

6th SEPTEMBER

PIANO PLAYTIME with ROB CUNNINGTON

20th SEPTEMBER

ANGUS PLAYS MUSIC FOR US

4th OCTOBER

BINGO and QUIZ

18th OCTOBER

a talk by GEOFF BUTCHER from CHRISTIAN AID

1st NOVEMBER

LYNDA SILK entertains

15th NOVEMBER

**THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY by the REMINISCENCE
ROADSHOW**

6th DECEMBER

THE TUDORS a talk by JACKIE DIMMER

20th DECEMBER

THE CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY DAVE entertains

NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS 10th JANUARY 2017

An affirmation of God's presence

As I bow in the quiet room I have made in my heart,
O Lord, let the hush of thy presence fall upon me.

Leslie Weatherhead

No 1

FIRST MESSENGER
SEPTEMBER 1959

Kingsdown FIRST Messenger



Kingsdown Messenger

The first Issue was September - October 1959 published to mark the opening of the combined churches of West Ealing and Kingsdown. The magazine was duplicated quarto size with 12 pages of family news and news of the organizations that were active at that time.

Given below is an extract from the opening page of the Minister's letter:

.....We are on the threshold of another Methodist year, and for us it is a momentous one, and full of hope and promise. It scarcely seems possible that the time of our union has arrived, and that after all the plans and preparation which have covered almost two years of thought and action, we are now together in our Kingsdown Methodist Church. There is a great deal yet to do, and the future holds much in store for rebuilding in every way, but we pause here to give thanks to God for the way in which we have been led, and for all that our 'togetherness' will mean.....

*"We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come."*

Rev Frank E Reedman

The Messenger has been in continuous publication with changes of Editors and some changes of format over the years, going from duplicated pages, to cut and paste, and now has the benefit of software programmes and computers to help to put together the current 10 issues a year. One thing that hasn't changed is the need for news from contributors and we quote below a line that came from the second issue in November 1959:

"WHERE IS YOUR ITEM OF NEWS ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?"

A complex system that doesn't work is often found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine!

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS



1. Christian Aid Week - 2016

The result for 2016 is now available - we raised **£3,075.49**. A wonderful result!

This year Anna raised £238.00 in the Circle the City Sponsored Walk, so this brought our total to over £3,000.00 (see July/August Messenger). Many thanks to Anna and all her supporters at Kingsdown.

By far the largest amount, as usual, came from House-to-House collecting - £1,046.04 achieved by just 12 collectors! Very many thanks to all who helped in any way - Book Fair, House-to-House collection, Flag Day, etc.

2. DATES FOR 2017

- 26 January - Christian Aid Supporters Event
- 13 May - Annual Book Fair with stalls (Kingsdown)
- 14 May - CA Sunday in the UK
- 14 - 20 May - Christian Aid Week
- 220 May - Flag Day in the London area
- 21 May - Circle the City.

3. Annual Richmond Park Sponsored Walk 0 2016

The next event is the annual Richmond Park sponsored walk to be held on 24 September. You will have been reminded of this by the Church Notices during August. Friends who have participated in previous years have already indicated a wish to participate again! Sponsorship forms have been available for a few weeks and packs with registration forms are due this weekend. Anyone may join in!?

This is always an enjoyable event and you will remember Janet's items in the Messenger. Last year our four collectors raised £696.00!

4. Lambeth Palace Garden Open Day

A lovely sunny day When we arrived Mark and staff of the Christian Aid London Team were taking our admission fees - and then once inside the grounds we were greeted by Lambeth Palace guides - lots of them around to answer our questions. A brief history of the Palace - the Archbishop's flag wasn't flying so we knew he wasn't at home!

Our guide pointed out the Fig Trees which were planted in 1556. Very healthy looking trees of the 'White Marseilles' variety - two crops of delicious fruit ripens in July and October each year and have sweet white flesh - not the usual brown.

We next joined the queue in the crowded refreshment tent, then went to the stall selling Lambeth Palace souvenirs (including Lambeth Palace honey) and the plant stall. Guided walks lasting 30-45 minutes were well supported but I decided with the help of my leaflet to have my own walk round the grounds; so I finished in the Chapel garden surrounded by agapanthus! This 800 year old garden is the oldest continuously cultivated garden in London and we all had a most enjoyable afternoon.

But this was a Christian Aid event and we were reminded of this. In one of the tents there was an exhibition about HAITI and all that has been achieved in the past by our Christian Aid Partners. As we read the information and looked at the 'photos we realised all that must be done in the future.

Ruby Warne

THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Very many thanks for all the items placed in THE BOX during the summer months. ALL the items are still needed - SPECS - STAMPS - SOCKS - MOBILE PHONES.

Ruby Warne

LAMBETH PALACE - OPEN DAY

I enjoyed the summer afternoon Ruby and my friend Merlyn went to at Lambeth Palace Garden, the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. One of the members met us for an introduction to the fig trees, an attraction for all visitors and were originally planted in 1556 by Cardinal Archbishop Pole, and are of the 'White Marseilles' variety; the figs are under-planted with native bulbs - daffodils, snowdrops, wood anemones, wild primroses and wild orchids. The trees are enclosed with an ivy hedge - Hedera Helix 'Ivalace'. Its been the oldest garden since the 12th Century. In the late 18th Century Archbishop Moore changed the garden from a formal 'privy' garden of geometric design. Archbishop Welby today makes the garden available to charities as much as possible

in the summer months, and it is used by his family, visitors, staff and residents every week. The garden is maintained and owned by the Church Commissioner for England.

This charity was organized by Christian Aid with lots of cakes, coffee and teas, souvenirs, and varieties of plants, plus an exhibition of posters. A tour of the garden started from the fig trees and included the orchard, tulip trees, terrace, beehive, pond, chapel, Cranmer's tower, etc; it was an excellent and worthwhile tour lasting 30-45 minutes. Thine be the glory.

Lita Requinton Stoll

Prayer of thanks for teachers

Dear Father,

Thank you for teachers. Thank you for their gifts of knowledge and communication. Please give them patience and understanding in their work and most of all the wisdom to listen to you and to be directed by your Kingdom values. Thank you for Jesus – the best teacher of all. Help us all to learn from Him that greatest of all lessons, that you are the living God, His Father and ours, and that you love us and want us to know you.

Father, as we pray and trust in the name of Jesus, our teacher and Lord, may that close knowledge of you become our reality. **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching

The Shopper's Prayer

Lord... when the stores call out my name,
help me not to play the game.
Remind me what I have at home,
the 'bargains' I already own!
When 'open open' fills my ears,
replace them with my chequebook fears.
Protect me, Lord, from senseless greed,
For simple things are all I need.

Author unknown

Three Days to Rio!

Athletes family Homestay -The London 2012 Olympics

First off all, here is wishing the 300 strong team GB athletes, Good Luck in Rio! It would be very remiss of me however, not to wish the iconic Usain Bolt and Team Jamaica- from the land of my birth, Success, and to continue doing, what they do best!

The reason for this reflection however is to journey again to the 2012th Olympic, held here in the UK and its 'Athlete Family Homestay Program', which was recorded as the most successful delivery of its program since its introduction!

The program was one strand of 'More than Gold'- a charity which has organised the activities that has enabled Christians and Churches to serve their communities, during previous Olympics and Commonwealth games. Its raison detre. has been to encourage individuals and families, to host the families of participating athletes, in their homes at no cost to their guests! It was an honour and a privileged to be a part of the planning team, who assisted the then Methodist Connexional Project Officer - Ish Lennox, in the implementation of the program.

The team consisted of a small More than Gold team, representatives from many churches and the representatives, charged with other areas of work, including, members of the Board of executive;

Program; Communication, engagement committees and a Prayer Team.

My work included monthly meetings leading up to the Olympics; being kept updated on the 'Get Set' Road Tours; Training of Host Team Leaders for the Reception Centers; Recruitment of Hosts and Volunteers for Home visiting of prospective hosts and the manning of Reception Centers; Getting Updates on Guests, from the sending Countries and Launch of the program at Trafalgar Square in June 2012, where I was able to stand at the back of the crowd that included some of the hosts,



waving our Union Jacks. (This event can still be viewed on You Tube}.

The program turned out to be a voyage of discovery as well as my being able to take part in a delivery of this important Service. So it was of great satisfaction, that I was supported and encouraged by the then President of Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB)- Jill Baker; The London District Methodist Church, Chairs, the ministers and particularly members of my own Church - Kingsdown in Ealing Trinity Circuit, many of whom helped to man one of the Reception Centers - too many to mention! Included in the activities of my service were: - Attending all the road shows and participation in the disseminating of knowledge about the program at these

events; Training potential hosts and Reception Team Leaders; Making a Podcast that was Broadcasted; Speaking at the London District Methodist Church Synod and other Churches; Training inter-denominational Team leaders for the reception Centers and carrying out Home Visits to prospective hosts, accompanied by a member from Kingsdown - Kathleen Jarrett. The home visits included the vetting of hosts and accommodation, briefing of families and ensuring that Safeguarding issues prove to be negative, where there were children in the households. In every visit we were overwhelmed with the goodwill of people who were prepared to welcome strangers into their homes and bearing the cost!

The Reception centers where hosts could meet, greet and collect their guests were beautifully decorated and transformed into a place of welcome and we all helped to prepare lunch for those who manned the centers and offering refreshments to all. There are however two Volunteers, I would like to focus on, who helped at the Reception Center in Central London” The First is a Boy named Kofi Afful - then aged 11years old, who asked if he could be one of the volunteers at a Reception Centre, after hearing me speak about the scheme, during a service, at my church. After consultation with the organising team, it was decided to encourage Kofi, but also to take into account safeguarding and so it was decided that his adult brother would cover him whilst he was on duty! What an amazing opportunity for this young boy, who is making great strides in our churches Boy Brigade!

Secondly, on one of my regular visits to the Reception Centre in Central London, I was told by the Team Leader on duty, that my grandson, Bertie Pennington, who at that

time was a teenage music undergraduate at Brunel University had distinguished himself. It transpired that a man had come in from the street, when another girl and Bertie were on duty, and had started to make a nuisance of himself with the girl; whereupon Bertie had firmly seen him off the premises. I was VERY proud of my grandson’s action!

The attached picture is that of a guest from Canada, whom Lita Stoll and I had met at Heathrow, in order to take him to the local reception Centre. The other two people are members of the Cold Stream Guards, who on seeing my colleague and I in our oversize T Shirts with the ‘More Than Gold Emblem, had wanted to hear more about our scheme and was happy to pose for a picture with us!

There was a final ‘Thanks Giving Service’ held in Central London during the Autumn of 2012, when ‘**More than Gold**’ Certificates were handed out for all who had taken part in this worthy and memorable program, followed by a sharing of our experiences with Reps from Scotland - Edinburgh, who were preparing for another ‘More than Gold’ event for the Commonwealth Games 2013! This has been an important milestone in my life, for which I am eternally grateful and it came about, by default, which started with the then Minister of my church, Roger Dunlop, asking me, 4 years earlier, whether, I would be, willing to become the Women’s Network rep at my Church - Kingsdown! The rest they say is History!

More than Gold: *‘They will show that you will be given Praise and Honour and Glory when Jesus Christ returns- 1 Peter1: 7- one of the captions on the **More than Gold Certificates**, issued in 2012.*

Blossom Jackson -MWIB Forum Rep-

Forum Report- London Dist. MWiB



The year has been a very busy one for Forum members and the Executive staff, with Anne Browse completing her first year as President and Linda Crossly handing over to Sandra Goodwin, who was confirmed as Vice President 2016-2017, at the Forum held in February.

There have been other changes in the executive after sterling work by Alison Judd- Area Officer- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women **{WFM&UCW}** and Liz Marriott, Communication Officer, completing their term of Office. **MWiB, is the British Unit for WFM&UCW.**

Carolyn Lawrence, was elected WFM&UCW Area Officer and Judith Simms, Communication Officer from the New Church year.

The 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, will take place alongside the World Methodist Council Conference in Houston, Texas from 29th August to 4th September. More than 800 women are registered to attend, 56 from the Britain and Ireland Area. The Assembly is a 'once in five years' opportunity to meet with women from all nine areas of the world, each one a member of the world-wide family of Methodism aiming to 'know Christ and make him known'; to share our stories, engage in prayer and worship and work for global social justice through the em-

powerment of women. Mwib have raised money to assist places for 10 people from Eastern Europe to attend the assembly.

District insignia – At the Forum held in February, two samples of pendants, were offered for approval and agreement. These are for District officers and will be at no cost to Districts, funded by a legacy. The estimated cost is £5,000-£7,000 for 31 Districts and will bear the MWiB LOGO. It is anticipated that these will be available by the Autumn.

It has been decided that Training for new Forum members will commence, starting in July 2016 and will be offered in subsequent years.

Other activities that have proved successful are: - The MWiB Heritage and Archives at Hepworth exhibition, and the Fund Raising Paul Field Concert, for the Church of North India, both of which were both held in May this year.

The Conference Fringe event, held in London this year, was well attended, also.

For further activities and information, these can be seen on the MWiB website.

Blossom Jackson Dist. Forum rep

Senior Moments!

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes.

By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turnaround, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses. All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grumpy old man.

He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant.

As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her,

"While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card!"

Submitted by Janet Smith

Make a Splash Quiz (Page 10) Answers

1. 20 kilos (3 stone) that's the same as the average aero plane luggage allowance.
2. 3.7 miles. it is mainly the responsibility of women or girls to collect water. If they are using a 20 litre jerry can, they will be carrying 20 kilos for that distance.
3. 100 million -they are collecting water instead of being at school or spending their time on economic activities, such as farming.
4. A third.
5. 650 million people - that's roughly 1 in 10 people on the planet.
6. 150 litres - what a privilege it is to have access to so much clean water, a gift we can easily take for granted

Uncertainty and Hope

If the audience at the First Night of the Proms this year had not heard the national news broadcasts that day, they would have been startled by an unscheduled addition to the programme. It opened with a rousing rendition of the French National Anthem. Scores of unsuspecting holidaymakers in the French resort of Nice had been mown down by a fanatical lorry driver; his was the latest in a chain of massacres perpetrated by Islamists in Europe and beyond. Ironically, it was Bastille Day, commemorating French unity. The playing of the Marseillaise in London's Albert Hall was a demonstration of solidarity with French people everywhere.

Next day, an Anglican chaplain based near Nice said, "Prayer is the thing. We can't do anything tangible or practical in support of the security service apart from our own vigilance . . . but we do have a very strong and a very powerful thing that we can do . . . and that is prayer . . . because with faith we trust in God's love and mercy for those who have died, but for the families left behind this is a most terrible time from which many may not recover."

Terrorist acts of this kind are motivated by a deadly combination of false faith with hatred. No one is risk-free, and the nations' leaders are hard-pressed to safeguard their people. St. Paul's advice to Timothy has never been more apt: "I urge that ... prayers... be offered to God for all in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence towards God and with proper conduct." We must be on our guard, but also trust God. In Nice churchyard is the grave of Henry Lyte, the writer of the hymn, *Abide with me*, which encourages us to disarm our fears by expressing confidence in God's purposes:

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness; Where is death's sting? Where grave thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Healing Retreat:

"Refreshment - refreshing the parts only God can reach"

Please come and join the Healing Team from Greenford at the Healing Retreat, entitled: "Refreshment - refreshing the parts only God can reach".

The retreat will be held on Saturday 12th November from 10.00am – 4.00pm at Ruislip Manor Methodist Church, Torrington Road, Ruislip HA4 0AS and will be led by Sarah Swift, Chaplain at the Christian Healing Mission.

There is no charge, but please note that lunch will not be provided.

If you would like to attend, please let Elizabeth Burke know by Saturday 22nd October, either by email: eburke5455@gmail.com or by telephone: 020 8575 6388.

NEW CPZ's planned for West Ealing and Northfield Avenue West

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, cabinet member for transport, environment and leisure, said: "Parking can be a big issue in roads where demand is high and our proposed CPZ programme is intended to anticipate this increasing demand and put in place schemes that work for residents and enable them to park in their local roads.



"Even though we have identified these areas as having high parking pressures, local residents will be the ultimate decision makers and new schemes will still need majority support to move forward. I encourage the residents of the first seven schemes to look out for their consultation documents and make sure they speak to their neighbours and give their views."

The decision was taken by Ealing Council's cabinet on Tuesday, 14 June. A list of all 21 proposed schemes can be found at www.ealing.gov.uk/committees by clicking on 'cabinet meetings' and clicking on June 2014, item 10.



LET DOWN BY HIS FRIENDS

In the Bible there are many accounts of Jesus healing people. You can read about one in Mark's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 3 - 12. I like this one because it is about friends.

The four men made a tremendous effort to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. When they reached the house where Jesus was it was surrounded by lots of people; they could have given up and gone home. But they didn't. What did they do?

At that time houses had flat roofs and a stairway outside the house that led up to the roof. The four men broke through the roof and lowered their friend down on his bed. Imagine all the faces looking up and wondering what was going on as the dust, earth and lumps of wood fell down! Then the Bible says "When Jesus saw their faith..."

The all important change came from faith - not from the faith of the man but from the faith of his friends. One man's life changed forever because of four good friends and one Best Friend, Jesus.

OVER & UNDER?

The answers to all of these are either OVER or UNDER...

1. When a car passes another vehicle.
2. In London, they call it the Tube.
3. A thick winter garment you wear outside.
4. Dungarees, or worn to do a dirty job.
5. One way to throw a ball.
6. Another name for a funeral director.
7. When someone falls off a boat.
8. Knickers, vests etc.



(Answers at the bottom of the page)



On a school trip to France, the teachers were reminding the children about behaving properly. 'And,' said the headmaster, 'what do you do if one of the children falls overboard?' 'Shout for help, sir,' said one boy. 'Good. And what do you do if one of the teachers



falls overboard?' 'Which one, sir?'

-
- Answers: 1. overtaking 2. Underground
3. overcoat 4. overalls 5. underarm 6. undertaker 7. overboard
8. underclothes

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

September

- Mon 5 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 6 2-4 pm Kingsdown Club - Piano Playtime with Rob Cunningham
- Tue 13 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Wed 14 1- 3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly - term time only)
- Thu 15 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
7.30 pm World Service and Missions Committee Meeting
- Fri 16 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 17 10 am-12.30 pm Kingsdown Book Fair, including cakes, gifts,
bric-a-brac stalls, in aid of 'All We Can' - see p 6 for further
details
- Sun 18 10th Ealing BB 50th Birthday celebration
- Tue 20 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Angus plays music for us
- Sat 24 The Away Day from about 10.00 am to about 4.00 pm at the
Kairos Centre in Roehampton. Everyone will be welcome to
come. See p. 2 for details

Future Events

October

- Sat 15 2.00 pm King's Hall Centenary Celebration at
Hambrough Primary School**

Blessing from 'Lamentation' series:

Go in peace and praise to live and work to God's praise and glory
To weep with those who are weeping
To dance with those who are dancing
To look for God's kingdom wherever you go
To show God's love to all you meet
To know God's love in all you meet.

Thanks be to God. Amen