



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

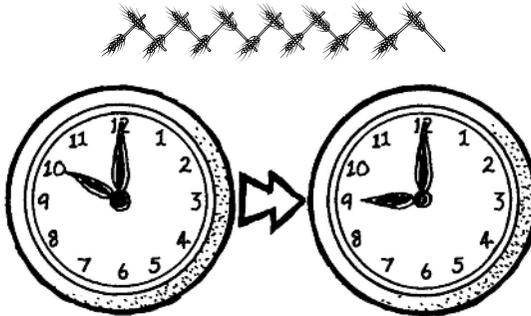


October 2016



SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

- 2 Oct 10.30 Mr Mark Budu-Manuel
- 9 Oct 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending,
Family Parade &
Harvest Festival Service
- 16 Oct 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith/
Mrs Regina Prempeh - Holy Communion
- 23 Oct 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending
- 30 Oct 10.30 Rev Shirlyn Toppin



In the UK the clocks go forward 1 hour at 1am on the last Sunday in March, and back 1 hour at 2am on the last Sunday in October (30th).

When the clocks go back, the UK is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

In 2017 the dates are: 26 March *forward* 29 October *back*

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the November 2016 issue is Friday 28 October 2016

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



Dear friends

For me autumn is always a time of memories and taking stock. In the garden I'm harvesting some of the vegetables I planted in the spring and summer. As I do so I make a mental note of what did well and what struggled to help me plan for next year. Meanwhile catalogues are appearing in the letterbox and my email inbox with tempting images of bulbs and plants for next season. In all of this I look back to celebrate and evaluate and I look forward to plan and anticipate.

In church too we have a period of looking back and looking forward. We've just celebrated the Boys Brigade's 50th anniversary and what a joyous event that was with old friends and new gathering to pack the church. If you've had time to read the history of the company you will have noticed not only celebration but also times of review. Just like my garden, for the Boys Brigade to thrive as it does there have been times when its leaders have had to stop and evaluate and change their practice to fit the needs of the present age.

In a few weeks on the 15th October we will celebrate the centenary of the Kings Hall with our class meeting. This is a great event but it comes at a time when the congregations are outside their building and negotiations continue regarding that building's future development. Fresh vision and a willingness to move forward prayerfully will be needed if that building and community are to have a rich future building God's kingdom in the present age.

On the 9th October we will celebrate our harvest, bringing gifts for Hope for Southall Street Homeless, a charity that has been in existence only a year but that is already making a difference to the lives of individuals in Southall. As we celebrate harvest we remind ourselves once again of the riches of the world which God has created and all that we have been given. This abundance should overwhelm us. It should also spark our own generosity and wish to give in return. It's therefore a great time for us to review our own giving in terms of money, time and talents - the ways we work for God's kingdom inside and outside the church.

Can I ask you within this to consider your giving to the church, please? Many of you give sacrificially, reviewing your giving each year. Some of you may not have thought about your giving for sometime. It is very easy

for years to pass quickly with the amount given in standing orders and envelopes remaining the same. Can I ask you to wonder if your church giving has kept pace with the rest of your spending or are you still giving what you gave 10 years ago? If you don't already do so and you're a UK tax payer, would you consider gift aiding your offering so that we can claim the tax back?

Review and reflection was one of the the things identified by our vision process as necessary to our growth, life and vision as a church. To do so follows the rhythm of the life of the world God has created - springtime and harvest flow with their planting and picking, their preparing ground and clearing away the old.

May God grant us the vision and the strength to see those things which needs to be changed or cleared, to prepare the ground for new growth and may we move forwards into the coming years, building on the foundations of what has gone before.

God bless

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel".

Family News

We were delighted to learn that **Brenda Glassman's** husband **William**, having recently undergone heart surgery, is now home and apparently recovering well. We do hope William continues to make good progress and ask you to remember the Glassman family in your prayers at this time.

Remember too any other members of our Kingsdown family you know who may be having a 'bad patch' for health or other reasons at this time, including Juliet Edwards (a foot operation) and Sybil Corbin (an eye operation).

Rita Brewster has asked us to convey her congratulations to the Boys Brigade on their 50th anniversary and would like to thank all those who helped in the kitchen in any way during the celebratory event held in the church hall after the church service on Sunday, 18 September. *(It was lovely to see the church filled to overflowing with visiting guests come to share memories of their years being a part of this very successful organisation.)*

Kingsdown's Away Day

On Saturday 24th September a group of us went to the Kairos Centre in Roehampton for the day. Our leader was Rev Dave Tomlinson, author of books such as 'Re-enchanting Christianity', 'How to be a bad Christian' and 'The bad christian's manifesto'

Some comments on what we talked about:

"A church for our times"

"Change for survival"

"Infectious enthusiasm"

"There's a danger somethings might happen"

"Change to move forward"

"Changes to be proud of our church"

"Forward action"

"Revolution for rebirth"

"How to be a good Christian"

"Forward vision"

We had a good day with challenging and enthusiastic conversation. We've agreed to meet at **6pm on Sunday 2nd October** to continue the conversation and plan for the future. All are welcome.





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.

Olwen Britton

HARVEST FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

The above article appeared in the September issue of the Messenger, and is being repeated as it refers to the proposals for this year's Harvest collection, although no specific information is to hand at present. It is assumed that the Church Notices may give everyone more details of what will be the most acceptable gifts to bring.



It is usual practice for the church to be decorated to reflect the season on the Saturday morning and as usual everyone who feels able to come along and join the team will be most welcome. Hopefully some of the church organisations will be willing to make their own personalised contribution by selecting one of the shelves to decorate in some appropriate fashion, as well as individual displays from our regular stalwarts.

Do look out for up to date information and, where possible, perhaps bring decorative foliage/flowers for display purposes to enhance whatever other produce which may be required.

King's Hall Centenary Celebrations

The English-speaking and the Urdu/Hindi-speaking congregations at King's Hall invite you to the special Centenary Celebrations for the King's Hall on Saturday **15th October** at Hambrough Primary School (adjacent to the King's Hall) on South Road, Southall UB1 1SF.

2.00pm	Arrival, drinks and exhibition
3.00pm	Worship and celebration
4.30pm	Celebration meal

There is car parking at the far end of St Joseph's Drive.

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books Cakes Gifts
Bric-a-Brac

Saturday 5th
November

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:



Ealing Live at Home Scheme

Methodist Homes

A book fair in aid of Methodist Homes Ealing Live At Home Scheme will be held at Kingsdown on Saturday November 5th from 10.00-12.30. There will be stalls for books, cakes, gifts, bric-a-brac along with light refreshments.



The Live At Home Scheme is a partnership with Ealing Trinity Circuit, Methodist Homes and the London Borough of Ealing to promote independence and well being for seniors. It is based at Greenford Methodist Church and currently runs exercise classes at Greenford, Northolt and Pitshanger. Land at Greenford is also being used for a 'grow and eat' initiative.

So please come along and make this event a success. Donations of goods will be gratefully received. There will also be an envelope appeal in aid of Methodist Homes and donations may be Gift Aided if required.

Olwen Britton



As part of an associated programme StayActive4Life run Exercise Classes at other venues across Ealing. You can go to another class if you miss your normal one.

MONDAY

Greenford Baptist Church, UB6 9UA from 9.45am - 10.45am

ECC Northfields, W5 4UB from 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Ditchley Court, Templeman Rd, W7 1E from 3.30pm - 4.30pm

WEDNESDAY

St Pauls, Ridley Avenue, W13 from 12.15 pm - 1.00 pm

THURSDAY

St Marys Church Hall, Greenford Ave W7 3QT from 10.30am - 11.30am

Haven Green Baptist Church, Castlebar Rd, W5 2UP from 1.00pm - 2.00pm

and Zumba Gold at St Pauls, Ridley Ave Wednesday 1.00pm - 1.45pm

Classes cost £3.50 per session. All are welcome.

Newcomers who have not attended an Exercise Class before get their first ten classes FREE.

More details from Arun Summers 0771 517 0207 or 020 8574 7785

from the Church Council

The most recent Church Council meeting took place on 21st September and was attended by 15 of its members and two observers.

The first topic of discussion was how we, as a church support the work of other organisations, principally charities such as All We Can, Action for Children, Christian Aid etc. In October 2014 the Council made a decision to stop holding special services or having 'slots' in services for charities. It also decided to consider alternative ways of supporting those charities, hence the discussion.

Information about charities we support is regularly included in the Messenger. One way of extending this would be to have displays and information available at events such as Traders Day. We could also organise after church 'bring and share' lunches to which speakers from charities could be invited. This could be done perhaps 3 – 4 times a year. However, this approach would only reach our own members and adherents. An alternative, and complementary approach would be to combine social events to which people from outside the church could be invited with providing information or inviting speakers from charities. Examples of this kind of event would be charity fashion

shows or quizzes. Following discussion it was decided to pursue the idea of a charity social event some time during the spring in support of All We Can.

Turning to finance, Derek Matthews reported that the church had ended the last financial year (which runs from 1st September to 31st August each year) with a surplus of about £21,000. This reflected very strong lettings income, offertory income having remained pretty much static. In line with the church's Reserves Policy it was decided to transfer £17,750 to the Major Repairs Fund.

We still have to decide on how to use the legacy left to the church by Peter Loveridge. Some ideas were floated at the meeting:

- A set of Revised Standard Version study bibles for use in bible studies
- Book stand for use at communion
- Small brass cross for the communion table (*replacing one stolen in 2007*)

We were asked to bring ideas (with costs) to the next meeting for decision, so if you have any suggestions, please let Rachel know before the next meeting which will be in early December.

Council also agreed to a request from the King's Hall Class Meeting to release £700 from the funds held for them by Kingsdown to support the King's Hall centenary celebrations on 15th October at Hambrough Primary School (next to King's Hall). This money will be pooled with equal amounts from the King's Hall Urdu/Hindi church and the Circuit to meet the cost of the celebrations. Details of the celebrations are published in the current edition of In-touch and in our regular News Sheet. People are needed to help set up the event from 12.00pm and to clear away afterwards from 5.30pm – if you can help, please speak to Rachel.

On property matters, the Council decided to replace the fluorescent lighting in the Arena and hall with LED fittings. These will be much more economical to run. The Arena will be tackled first as the cages protecting the current light fittings are not in good condition. The Property Committee will make the final decision on contractors and will organise the timing of the work.

The meeting expressed its thanks to all the people involved in looking after our church premises including the various people who undertake maintenance tasks, deal with lettings and look after the church finances. We all owe a great debt of thanks to them for their work.

The Mission & Outreach Committee reported that we had been asked to participate in the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter again this year. Council agreed that we should subject to there being sufficient volunteers, particularly for the overnight shifts. Sue Barton will again act as Co-ordinator for Kingsdown. The Shelter will operate on the four Sunday nights leading up to, but not including Christmas Day.

The committee also made some recommendations about the regular Book Fairs. In order to re-focus the fairs more towards outreach and to provide scope for other types of stall (eg Traidcraft, plants etc) Council agreed that the quantity of books should be reduced by about 50%. This will also reduce the heavy work of moving and stacking the books. As the Book Fairs were considered to be part of the church's outreach, it was also decided to abolish the admission charge as this was felt to be inconsistent with 'outreach'. In future, reports detailing the amounts raised will be itemised by the type of stall (books, cakes, bric-à-brac, refreshments etc. This will help keep each element under review.

Finally, the committee recommended that consideration be given to the frequency of the

Book Fairs, possibly reducing from 6 to 4 per annum. However, as dates had already been set for 2016 – 17 there will be no reduction in the coming year. First, the Council wants to see how the re-focussed fairs go. In addition, account will taken of how well participants feel they can sustain the current number of fairs.

Turning to worship, a further Worship Consultation is to be arranged, although the date had not yet been fixed. Christmas Day this year falls on a Sunday and services will be as follows:

11th Dec 10.30am Christmas Family Parade service

18th Dec 6.00pm Carol service

24th Dec 11.15pm Midnight communion

25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Morning Worship

We are awaiting a response from Lodge Bros was regarding sponsorship of the Memorial Carol Service, so look out for further news.

Jill Richardson has suggested putting together a list of ministers for display in the church. Council agreed that ministers back to the point when the church became Kingsdown Methodist Church (c 1959) will be researched.

Finally, Rachel Bending said that she would be taking a sabbatical from April – June 2017. Rachel is committed to working as a presbyter in London, so as a great contrast she intends to spend some time considering deserts as silent places. The Circuit will provide support to the church during Rachel's sabbatical and was forming a Sabbatical Support Committee. Offers were requested for people to join the committee.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th December at 8.00pm.

Gerald Barton
Church Council Secretary



KINGSDOWN'S BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP

The weekly Wednesday sessions (term time only) manned by a team of volunteers is continuing to flourish and appears to be very popular with our regular attendees. It is a place where mums, dads, carers and their charges can meet in a relaxed atmosphere for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, while keeping a eye on the children - who are able to get used to interacting with each other and sampling different activities/toys/equipment.

It was recently pointed out that this activity had continuously been an outreach activity at the church for the last 15 years - started up by the Minister's wife at the time Mrs Barbara Smith and Mrs Jill Ward. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who, over the years, have been willing to give up their time to maintain this ongoing diary date.



Jill Richardson

URBANISED

A huntsman's horn he'll never hear,
No baying hounds for him to fear.
He'll never know a fresh green field,
Nor pad an undulating weald.
Not for him to go to ground,
In some thorn-tangled grassy mounds.
For times have changed, things aren't the sam
And he must play a different game.
To feed his ever-hungry brood,
He must resort to human food.
Now instant haute cuisine occurs,
Thrown out by city restaurateurs.
No need for chicken necks to snap,
When coq au vin is there on tap.
So nowadays his greatest sin,
Is scavenging a wheelie-bin.
Neon lights, not glow worms flicker,
On our modern city slicker.
Gone the time his brush was prized,
For foxes now are "urbanised".

Submitted by **Les Goodchild** - poet unknown



THE BOYS' BRIGADE'S 50TH BIRTHDAY CHURCH PARADE

The 50th Birthday Church Parade of 10th Ealing Boys' Brigade was an event two years in the planning, but which was worth every second of preparation. Old Boys, ex-officers and friends travelled from all corners of the kingdom to meet up with their comrades and colleagues, to give thanks, to parade, and to enjoy a day of unabashed nostalgia.

We had hoped to have a congregation of perhaps 150 to celebrate but, as it turned out, over 250 people filled our church to capacity and then



some. We had to put out extra rows of chairs at the back of the church and also add seats to the end of each pew to meet demand, causing the opening of the service to be delayed by almost ten minutes while everyone claimed their place. Finally, with the BB Senior Boys squeezed into the

choir pews, the worship began and the assembled number raised the roof for the next 80 minutes.

There were so many surprise guests it would be impossible to name even half of them but amongst those in attendance were Anthony Keast and Clive Pennells (Company founders); Peter Watkins and Mike Camp-Overy; Bill and Marj Davies, with Joanne; Jason, Mark and Susan Young; Hamilton Lee, Mark Goodchild and Michael Clarke; David Bartram, Mark Thompson, David Tebbutt, Stephen Antoine and Ralph Pirie-Lewis; Paul Copas, Gary Douthwaite and Mark Cronin; the Griffiths/Blackledge family; Linda Maynard Castle; Graham, Fran and Clare Pike; Les and Gwen Goodchild; and also 50 current serving Boys from the 10th, which is the most we've ever had at a church parade.

Amongst the joyous singing and prayer, we also found time to wallow in memories, as David Lane and Tony Plews wandered the church with microphones inviting the old-timers to reminisce about their time in the 10th, which was followed by a short poignant film showing the history of the Company through 50 different photographs -- one for each year. Many of the memories brought loud laughter and some brought quiet tears as the viewers remembered their own childhoods.



During the prayers, Mark Tobias and David Lane read the 10th Ealing Roll of Honour, recalling before the congregation and before God those who had served and passed into Glory. Revd Rachel Bending spoke to the current membership encouragingly, inviting them to put on God's armour as they sought to be Christian soldiers.



The service was followed by a parade, and our band (London's best) led the Company followed by scores of Old Boys and their families around the block -- it was a glorious sight to behold. And then, with the formalities done, we all filed

into the church hall for the festivities. Drinks and birthday cake were served amidst laughter and chat, as the throng pored over the hundreds of photographs that lined an entire wall and also looked through the tables of trophies and memorabilia.

Mention must be made of the ladies of the catering team who provided heroic service throughout the event -- Thank You!



Current Kingsdown members were delighted to see so many old familiar faces and, once again, tears flowed in amongst the jollity and laughter. By 2:30 pm, all was done (bar the tidying) and the doors were closed. It was a day that will long be remembered by all

who were able to attend. Thanks to all who contributed to this very special day of thanksgiving and celebration. And here's to the next 50 years!

Videos of the day can be viewed here:

The film shown during the service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfSyfdR62Ss>

The parade itself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BZPKbWFOs>

Photos of the social time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2CL0I5eMTw>



Tony Plews

Laura Cook Reports on the 'P' word

When we watch news scenes of bloodshed and destruction in Syria, and as images of dust-covered children sat in the back of ambulances stunned and glassy-eyed remind us of the awfulness of war we can sometimes wonder whether there is any way we can make a difference.

We speak of potential and yet in such dire circumstances surely all hope feels lost. Yet, in the middle of a children's group in Husn Camp, a petite



girl dressed in electric pink stood up and read a speech filled with passion and hope and yearning for a better future. Hiba's voice shook as she spoke of home, "the war burned everything" she said. But as she talked her voice swelled with courage and she started to express the

encouragement she had found through this children's group, known as the Child Forum.

She spoke of her talent for poetry being nurtured and she smiled timidly. For girls like Hiba the forum, run by one **All We Can's** partners in Jordan, had been a source of strength and psychological support. A hub for learning, discussion, friendship, and perhaps most importantly fun. Hiba had lost so much in Syria, through her words I discovered she had been bereaved of her father and her home, but resiliently she also spoke of what she had gained.

Extracted from Laura Cook's report - read the whole report at:

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/news/articles/post/212-the-p-word>

'All We Can' Book Fair on Saturday 17 September

Pam and Alan would like to thank all those who contributed in any way towards the success of the Book Fair and various stalls which raised the sum of £330.46. This sum has already been sent and receipt acknowledged expressing gratitude to all who supported this appeal, and a copy of the letter will be displayed on the Church foyer notice board.

A breakdown of takings was as follows:

Admission	£24.30
Books	£52.40
Bric-a-brac	£95.50
Cakes	£97.80
Gifts	£47.00
Refreshments	<u>£13.46</u>
	<u>£330.46</u>



Methodist
relief and
development

Extraordinary Gifts

Practical gifts that help people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can. From sheep in Ethiopia to a library in Nepal, find out how your gifts for friends and family can really change lives.

Simply choose a gift for a friend or family member from our selection and we'll send you a colourful card for you to personalise and give

Catalogues in the Church Foyer or ask Pam and Alan Smith to give you one OR go to:

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/extraordinary-gifts/extraordinary-gifts>



for full details of
all gifts from
Busy Bees £10,
Goat for It £30
to Living Water
£300





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 OAS 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.

More information about the Healing services can be found on:

<http://www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/healing-service/>



TRAIDCRAFT CATALOGUES - Autumn/Winter 2016

Traidcraft catalogues are circulating showing Christmas cards, calendars, food, gifts, etc. If you have purchased before your name will be on a circulation list. However, if you are interested please let me know and I will ensure you receive a copy.

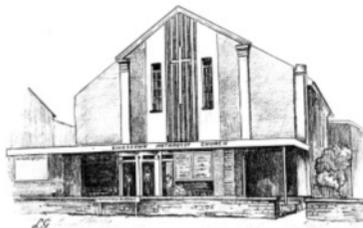
Ruby Warne

***Why do Americans choose from just two people to run
for president, and 50 for Miss America?***

Ministers at Kingsdown



- Sep 1959 Rev Frank E Reedman
- Sep 1961 Rev George Howarth
- Sep 1968 Rev John Crouch
- Sep 1970 Rev Leslie Webb (deputised)



- Sep 1971 Rev Eric Maynard
- Sep 1978 Rev Dennis Dobell
- Sep 1983 Rev Jack Roberts
- Sep 1992 Rev David Holland



- Sep 1997 Rev Cecil Smith
- Sep 2002 Rev Roger Dunlop
- Sep 2012 Rev Peter Catford
- June 2013 Rev Chrissie Howe
- Sep 2014 Rev Rachel Bending

With thanks to the 10th Ealing BB Company's history produced for the 50th Birthday celebrations together with a search of The Messenger archives.



Edna was shattered after decorating the whole Church for Harvest

GOOD DAY MY FRIEND

To a Special Person just to let you know that it's Christian Person Week and you should send this to all beautiful Christian people.

When I say that "I'm a Christian" I'm not shouting that I am clean living.

I'm whispering I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven.

When I say I am a Christian I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say I am a Christian, I am not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and need this strength to carry on.

When I say I am a Christian I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say I am a Christian I'm not claiming to be perfect.

My flaws are far too visible but God believes I am worth it.

When I say I am a Christian I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon his name.

When I say, I am a Christian I'm not holier than thou.

I'm just a simple person who received God's grace.

Today is beautiful Christian Person's Day. Pretty is as pretty does, but beautiful is just plain beautiful.

I'm supposed to send this to beautiful people and you are one of them.

If you share this with another person, you will boost another person's self esteem.

Be blessed, be a blessing.

When you feel like you're drowning in life, don't worry - your lifeguard walks on water.

Lita Requinton Stoll

Lost in translation - Sign on a door in Istanbul:

American dentist – 2nd floor.

Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

Now in its 11th year, Acton Hill's Iris Axon Concert Series presents concerts of classical music featuring professional virtuoso performers on the first Sunday of the month at 4.00pm.

On October 2nd we welcome Haruko Seki, piano, who has performed internationally including the Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square. She has also recorded for the BBC and German television. The Times has commented on her playing as "bathed in tonal beauty". This is Haruko's first appearance at Acton Hill and we are delighted she has accepted our offer to play. This will be a concert to remember.

The Concert Series now has its own website www.classicalconcerts-acton.com where you can find full details of forthcoming concerts. Entrance is by programme at the door (adults £6.00, concessions £5.00, children £2.00).



**Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative
to a basket of groceries**

Losing Christianity in the Middle East is 'hammer blow'

Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan has said losing Christianity in the Middle East would be a "hammer blow" which would "destroy the richness of the tapestry" of the area.

He wrote an article with Ed Kessler, a high profile Jew and founder of the Woole Institute, in the *Telegraph*. In it Prince Hassan condemns Islamic State saying he is "appalled by the sickening attacks on our fellow human beings.

We also know that to lose Christianity from its birthplace would be to destroy the richness of the tapestry of the Middle East and a hammer blow to our shared heritage," he said. "The reality is that we are all one community, united by shared beliefs and history. But this is increasingly denied, with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant taking the lead both in justifying and carrying out these attacks." The pair say it is "abhorrent to us, as a Muslim and a Jew, to see Christianity and Christians under such savage assault across our region".

The letter adds: "Christianity has been part of the essential fabric of the Middle East for two thousand years. Far from being a Western import as some, incredibly, now seem to suggest, it was born here and exported as a gift to the rest of the world. Christian communities have been intrinsic to the development of Arab culture and civilisation.

Inter-faith work is the only way to end this dangerous slide towards hatred and self-destruction."

from ACE Forum

There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friends with their burdens.

Augustine

Happy Birthday Winnie the Pooh – a much loved bear

Winnie-the-Pooh was born 90 years ago this month, on 14 October, 1926 – in the sense that this was the date on which the world-famous children’s book by A.A. Milne was first published. Technically, Winnie-the-Pooh, also called Pooh Bear, is a fictional anthropomorphic teddy bear hero of a number of books, always illustrated by E.H. Shepard, who therefore gave Pooh his distinctive shape in the mind of the reader.



To his many admirers, Pooh is the wise, kind and loving companion they always wanted – a bear of very little brain and with many faults, but whose heart is always in the right place. The Pooh stories, written originally for the author’s only son, Christopher Robin, and set in an area recognisable as Ashdown Forest in Sussex, have been translated into many languages, including a Latin version, *Winnie ille Pu*.

Though naive and somewhat literal-minded, honey-loving Pooh composes songs and hums and comes up with unexpected solutions to problems. He also invents the game Poohsticks. He has been recommended to Christians for his love toward his friends, such as Piglet, Tigger, Kanga and Rabbit – all modelled on Christopher Robin’s soft toys.

Examples of Pooh’s wisdom are widely quoted. His refusal to let Piglet worry him can be seen as deeply Christian: “Supposing a tree fell down, Pooh, while we were underneath it?” “Supposing it didn’t,” said Pooh after careful thought. **

It’s no good telling me to act my age because I haven’t been this age before.

Is the internet taking over your life?

Ofcom, the media watchdog, has issued some sombre warnings based on a recent survey of national internet habits:

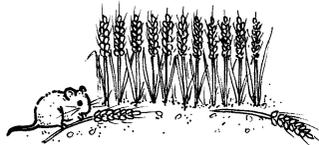


- More than half (59%) of all 50 million internet users in the UK say they are addicted to surfing the web. *(That includes 45 per cent of the over-65 age group who are using the internet.)*

- We now spend an average of more than 24 hours each week online. - Huge numbers of us have neglected housework, been late for work, and even walked into people on the street, because we simply could not put down our digital devices.

The internet is damaging our social and working lives. Around a third of us have avoided friends and family in order to stay online, while a quarter of teenagers are late for school because they are online. A third of us have attempted a 'digital detox'.

- Meanwhile, a quarter of adults admit to sending a text or instant messages to someone in the same room as themselves while at home.



A young man was taken on as a temporary caretaker at a large city church. When he reported for his first day at work, the Minister greeted him with a warm handshake and a smile. He gave him a broom and said, "I'm afraid the place is in a bit of a mess, so for your first job you will have to sweep the whole place and make it tidy."

The young man looked shocked and he said, rather indignantly, "Have you forgotten I'm a university graduate?"

The Minister replied, "Oh, sorry, I'd forgotten that; here give me the broom and I'll show you how it's done."

Support for families in financial crisis

Home Start Ealing needs urgent **donations of baby and children's equipment** that can be passed on to local families in need.

We need donations of the following items



Also

**Blankets Baby Bouncers, Baby Slings
Baby Gyms and Baby Starter Kits, bottle sterilisers**

NO CAR SEATS OR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

If you have any of the above items please contact

Home-start Ealing on 02088421617 or email
Sharon@homestartealing.org.

find us at: www.homestartealing.org

- **Unfortunately we are unable to collect items. If you have a donation please contact us to arrange a time to drop the items to our office in Northolt. Items delivered without notice will not be accepted.**



St FRANCIS

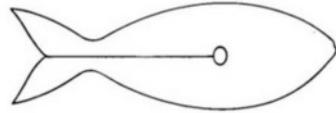
4th October is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. When Francis came to God people thought he had gone mad and even his own father disowned him. But Francis' simple way of life soon attracted others. He and his companions went out to preach two by two. Unlike the preachers and priests that people were used to, they wore sackcloth and went barefoot. They were different in other ways too; they lived a very simple life and celebrated God's creation.

And to Francis all of God's creation was equally important. In one famous story a wolf had been eating people. The town wanted to kill the wolf but Francis talked the wolf into never killing again. And the townspeople made sure that the wolf always had plenty to eat.

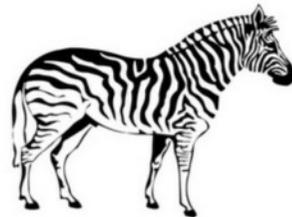
Even blindness did not discourage Francis' spirit when he wrote his beautiful 'Canticle of the Sun' praising God through the miracle of His creation. Francis died aged only 45, worn out with years of poverty and wandering.

SWIM, FISH, SWIM

How do you make a paper fish swim? Cut a fish shape from a sheet of ordinary writing paper. Make it 10-12cm long, and decorate it making sure that the colours won't run when the fish gets wet. In the centre of the fish's body cut a small circle and then a very narrow slit from the tail to the circle.



Now, keeping its surface dry, gently lay the fish on the surface of a bath or large bowl of water and carefully place a few drops of cooking oil into the central hole. The oil will expand through the slit and drive the fish through the water.



What's black and white and goes round and round?

A zebra stuck in a revolving door.

Why did the homeless turtle cross the road?

To get to the Shell station.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

October

- Mon 3 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 4 2-4 pm Kingsdown Club - Bingo & Quiz
- Wed 5 1- 3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly - term time only)
- Thu 6 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 7 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 the month)
- Sat 8 10 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - all welcome
Decorating the Church for Harvest
- Tue 11 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 15 2.00 pm King's Hall Centenary Celebration at
Hambrough Primary School (see p 7 for details)**
- Tue 18 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - A talk by Geoff Butcher from
Christian Aid

Future Events

November

- Sat 12 10.00- Healing Retreat: "Refreshing the parts only God
can reach", Ruislip Manor Methodist Church (see p 18 for
details)

*The message in a bottle
Arrived upon our shore,
And I was quick to ascertain
The mystery it bore.
I wrinkled out the paper,
With the minimum delay,
And the message scribbled on it read "Just one pint today".*

Amendment to September edition of Messenger:

CHRISTIAN AID

Dates for 2017: 'Flag Day in the London Area' should read **20** May
(apologies for the mistype).