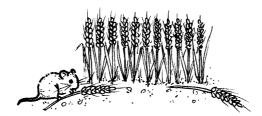
KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



October 2017

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2017

- 1 Oct 10.30 **Mrs Penny Pedley** 10.30 8 Oct Deacon Ramona Samuel Family/Parade Service, HARVEST FESTIVAL Rev Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi, Holy Communion 15 Oct 10.30 22 Oct 10.30 **Mrs Penny Pedley** Local Arrangement 29 Oct 10.30 5 Nov Ms Ade Benson-Ogundimu 10.30





The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the November 2017 issue is Friday 20 October 2017

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk







I love the autumn. I was born, married and had my first child in the autumn and I have always loved the season with its rich colours, wonderful qualities of light, balmy breezes and wild winds and those beautiful crisp, misty mornings.

I remember waxing lyrical about this to a friend once who listened patiently and then commented bluntly, 'I hate it, because everything is dying!' How differently we see things! Both of us were right about the autumn, but our emotional responses were quite different.

At this time of year I always remember that little exchange with my friend with a smile. I still love autumn, but it has, perhaps, made me more aware of the other reality of autumn as the blaze of glory that heralds the closing down of nature for the winter.

As I write, my husband and I have just come back from a lovely week in Swanage, Dorset. While we were there we looked into one of the Anglican churches in the town. It is a very wide church (the Anglican church is always described as a broad church, but this was wide in the architectural rather than the ecclesiastical sense!). The church had more or less been divided into two sides, one of which had traditional Victorian pews, and the other had modern upholstered chairs. There was an altar at the front of each side.

We found this juxtaposition of the old and the new intriguing and had some fun imagining how the church made use of the two options. Did they use one side or the other for different services and how did they decide? If they had a big service, did it ensure that people got there early to sit on the comfy chairs?

But what a luxury to be able to incorporate both into one building – the comfort and flexibility of chairs and the sense of enduring tradition of the pews. Few churches have that kind of space and, in many churches seating

has been a huge issue of difference. A bit like me and my friend, it is often a difference of perspective, and, often of emotional response.

This is not a reflection on church seating, or a way of preparing you for me to start suggesting major changes! It is more about encouraging us to consider how we hold together a sense of valuing ongoing tradition, but also look around at our rapidly changing society, the context in which the church lives and works, and ahead to a future in which the church can still be perceived as a relevant and important centre of God's presence and love in the community.

It is a challenge, but one which we are all called to share in together, encouraging each other in our different gifts and skills and listening to each other's perspectives and recognising that we have more to learn from those whose views differ to ours than from those with whom we agree! It is a challenge that asks us not to allow our emotional responses to close our minds and hearts to different ideas of what it means to live as Christ's people.

Above all we need to be seeking to listen to God and to be open to the direction in which he is drawing us. We need to be aware that our different perspectives are his gift to us, and to seek the places that they may lead us to, which may cause all of us to be open to adjust our perspectives. Prayer is an amazing gift, as God invites us to bring all that is on our hearts to him. But he also asks us to listen and he has a way of stirring up the dust in our comfort zones!

I'm certainly anticipating a few challenges to my comfort zone and look forward an autumn of listening and learning and growing with you.

Every blessing

Blessed are the flexible, for they don't mind it when the demands of family and work ties them in knots.

Family News

It was good to see **Kath Jarrett** serving coffee on Friday morning as usual, undeterred by her recent foot operation (which we hope will prove to have been successful).

We haven't seen **Blossom McCarthy** in a while and know that she has been very unwell. **Emily Campbell** kindly keeps us informed. We wish Blossom well and hope to see her back with us really soon.

Anna Church would just like to let everybody know that her younger daughter **Amy**, husband **Andy** and grandson **Max** (with the red hair) have gone to live in Malaysia for two years. Amy has been appointed Head of Special Needs at Marlborough College. We wish them well but will miss them terribly.



The ten cannots

(The autumn issue of the excellent "This England" magazine included the following piece which is attributed to William Boetcker, an American religious leader during the first World War.)

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.

You cannot help people permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

KINGSDOWN HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday, 8th October

Our Church Notices have already made us aware of specific requirements for our Harvest Festival donations this year. It is planned that these be used when Kingsdown hosts the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter for the homeless on the Sunday nights of 26 November, and 3/10 & 17 December. Any surplus will be sent to the Ealing Foodbank.

The following would be welcome:

instant coffee, tea bags, sugar, long-life semi-skimmed milk, chocolate biscuits, crisps, cereal (cornflakes, etc.), cereal breakfast bars, jam or honey, long-life fruit juice, TINS of soup (vegetable or tomato), tuna, sweet corn, tomatoes, pulses (e.g. cannelloni beans), fruit and custard.

Therefore, this requires innovative and artistic ideas to bring out the harvest theme as a backdrop for your donations. The boards and shelves around the church have previously been put to good use by a number of 'regulars' who hopefully may feel inspired to take on the challenge this year as well.

Do let Pam Smith or Eileen Tobias know beforehand if you wish to have a space allocated to you. They will be in the church on Saturday morning (7 October) setting up table space for the receipt of items from the above list. Any assistance/ideas/flashes of inspiration will be most welcome!





King's Hall Urdu-Speaking Church 50th Anniversary – Saturday 14th October

The 50th anniversary of King's Hall Urdu-Speaking church will be celebrated at Hamborough Primary School (where the church currently meets) on Saturday 14th October with a service of celebration at 3pm followed by a meal.

Methodist Homes

Remember, remember 4th of November ! I hope you will because it's the date of the MHA book fair.



There will be the usual stalls for books, cakes, gifts and bric a brac. Donations welcome, especially bric a brac.

Also for that week, the week before and the week after there will be envelopes in the pews for our annual appeal. Donations may be Gift Aided if required.

MHA's aim is to improve the quality of life for Britain's older people, inspired by Christian concern. It currently supports 17,000 older people in a range of initiatives such as care homes, supported living and live at home schemes.

As the older population grows, so the demand for MHA's services increases. The Ealing Live At Home Scheme, based at Greenford Methodist Church, organises various activities for older people in the borough.

Tel 020 8813 0519. Email ealing.liveathome@mha.org.uk

I hope you will attend the book fair and support the envelope appeal.

Many thanks Olwen Britton.

Book Fair September 2017



Methodist relief and

The hard work, support and efforts by many people helped in making the annual AWC Book Fair successfully bring in £322.91 which is on its development way to help some of the poorest of the poor.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way - a good team effort. The total from the Pew collection will be given next month.

> Alan Smith AWC Co-Ordinator.

NO MATTER THE STORM

- 1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
- 2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
- 3. As a child of God, prayer is like calling home every day.
- 4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
- 5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
- 6. Do the maths. Count your blessings.
- 7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
- 8. Dear God, I have a problem it's me.
- 9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
- 10. Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
- 11. The most important things in your home are the people.
- 12. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
- 13. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
- 14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
- 15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
- 16. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
- 17. Nothing is real to you until you experience it; otherwise it's just hearsay.
- 18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again; just be sure to flush when you are done.
- 19. Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle: it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
- 20. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. Leave gentle fingerprints on the soul of another for the angels to read.

Lita Requinton Stoll

God can't take your call right now

(One of the most frustrating things about living in today's society is the rampant increase in the use of automatic answering machines which click in when we try to seek help from an organisation. Have you every thought what it would be like if they used one in heaven!)

"Thank you for calling heaven. For English, press 1; for French, press 2; for all other languages, press 3.

Now please select one of the following options: Press 1 for a request; press 2 for thanksgiving; press 3 for complaints; press 4 for all others.

I am sorry, all our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it as soon as possible. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to: God, press 1; Jesus, press 2; the Holy Spirit, press 3.

To find a loved one that has been assigned to heaven press 5, then enter the personal number, followed by the # key. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try again later.

For reservations in heaven, please say the word JOHN followed by the numbers 316. For answers to particularly difficult questions, please wait until you arrive in heaven."

I'm sorry, the office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Our computers show that you have already been prayed for today, so please hang up and call again on Monday.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local clergy.

Thank you and have a heavenly day.





Methodist relief and development

Malawi - New Projects September 2017

Malawi

All We Can is working in partnership with inspiring local organisations in the Chikwawa and Nsanjue regions of Malawi.



Malawi is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. While making progress, having held five peaceful presidential elections since 1993 and achieved steady growth in GDP, around 50% of the population still live below the international poverty line. There are many problems in Malawi that have contributed to such a high poverty rate: An over-reliance on subsistence farming, steady population growth, and the impact of the HIV/Aids crisis.

All We Can is working with local organisations committed to seeing long-term and transformative change in the communities they work in.

Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)

CARD is a church based organisation supporting local communities to become more resilient to disasters and climate change. They work with local people by providing support to those living with HIV/AIDS, providing access to clean water and sanitation and developing livelihoods and food security.



Methodist relief and development

Zimbabwe - New Project September 2017

Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA)

With a passion to empower and transform rural communities in Gokwe and Muzarabani districts, MeDRA focuses on supporting people to develop sustainable livelihoods, access clean water and improved sanitation facilities and strengthen community-based support structures. MeDRA also works closely with the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe to address systemic issues of injustice through promoting gender equality, community level peace and reconciliation and child safe-guarding.



In 2016 All We Can supported MeDRA to undertake strategic planning that has helped MeDRA to focus their work on making the biggest possible difference with the resources they have. It also supported MeDRA to work with drought affected communities – from immediate food assistance to longer term food security. Together now, All We Can and MeDRA are working together to support the formation of small groups that will enable individuals to access new and more sustainable livelihoods like chicken rearing, gardening, pig breeding and fish farming.



Sandown Park

17-19 October 2017

A reminder that the 2017 Christian Resources Exhibition is back in its previous venue this year at Sandown Park. It runs from 17th - 19th October and admission is normally £4 if booked online in advance. Parking is free. However, Ray Garnett the HMC editor has found a source for complimentary tickets which you may share.

For your free tickets log onto the following site (no spaces): <u>https://www.eventdata.co.uk/Forms/Default.aspx?FormRef=CREA7Visit</u> <u>or&FormMode=COMP&TrackingCode=RPBOOKS</u>

Many thanks to Ray for arranging this. Ed.



Be that one!

One tree can start a forest One smile can begin a friendship One hand can lift a soul One word can frame the goal One candle can wipe out darkness One laugh can conquer gloom One hope can raise your spirits One touch can show you care One life can make the difference So, be that one today

"The older I get, the more I realise how easy it is to

stop to think and then forget to start again."

The Secret World of John Wesley's House

Wesley will be in ...

Wednesdays 11th October, 8th November and 13th December. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Entry Free

We are turning back time here at John Wesley's House!

Find out how people lived in 18th century London by speaking to our re-enactors inside the house. We will have baking down in the kitchen for you to taste, Wesley will be in his study and Betsy the Housekeeper can tell you all about life here.



Experience the everyday life inside a Georgian upstairs and downstairs inside a Georgian London townhouse for free! Find out more about who John Wesley was, how he helped the poor and find out what chores Betsy and the Cook had to do every day in the house. There will also be an opportunity for children to get dressed up and complete our house trail!

"We will be opening the front door to the public and giving them the experience of meeting characters dressed up as real people who lived here and find out what their life was like."- Aisha Al-Sadie, Learning and Community Engagement Officer.

John Wesley's House - Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

A Doctor's Day

The receptionists are cheerful, Bid us welcome, sort us out, And we sit and wait and in due time Hope you can sort us out.

We try to give you details Of how we really feel And some are quite specific While some we can't explain.

You use your special knowledge And apply your special skills, Prescribe your medication In the hope you'll cure our ills.

And then we find that while some work, Others make us worse, As side-effects cause problems Quite different from the first!

But you keep on and sometimes win, And then you send us home With years to live, and thanks to give, To you and God alone.

By Sam Doubtfire

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.





Marine plastic pollution is damaging the health of our oceans. From plankton to pilot whales, algae to albatross — no ocean life remains free from the effects of plastic waste ... it's even found in the seafood we eat. We might not think that our everyday actions can make a difference. But they do.

Many Cotton Bud stems are still made from plastic and we're still flushing them down the loo ... in their millions. Whilst getting people to stop flushing them is the ideal outcome, the perception of the loo as a 'wet bin' just doesn't seem to go away. IT'S TIME TO SWITCH THE STICK.

During heavy rainfall our sewers can overflow into our waterways and rivers, meaning anything we flush can get washed out to sea. Being so small, cotton bud stems can squeeze through sewage filters — which is why they make up over 60% of all sewage related beach litter (MCS, 2015)

The Cotton Bud Project 'good buddies' are cotton buds which do not have plastic stems. They are biodegradable, preferably paper and preferably FSC. More from www.fidra.org.uk/projects/cotton-buds/

Good Buddy

- Cooperative Fairtrade Cotton Buds
- The Body Shop Cotton Buds
- M&S Collection Fairtrade Cotton Buds
- Simply Gentle Organic Cotton Buds
- Muji Cotton Buds & Muji Thin Cotton Buds
- Essential Waitrose Cotton Buds & Cosmetic Tipped Cotton Buds
- Organyc Cotton Buds
- Johnson's Cotton Buds

Buddy

- Our buddies have committed to change from plastic cotton bud stems by 31.12.2017 and are well on their way to becoming **best buddies**.
- Sainsbury's, Morrisons, BootsUK, Aldi, Asda, Lidl, Tesco, Superdrug, Wilko, Mothercare.

Why do Christians pray?

Jesus taught his followers to talk to God in the same way that He did – like a child speaks to an adoring father. When they pray, Christians sense that they are in the presence of God. They are seeking to come close to the maker and shaper of the world's destiny. Christians lay open to God their deepest hope, happiness and anxiety. And they open themselves to God directing and changing them.

Those who take prayer to heart do not see it simply as a series of requests that God will change the world in the way they personally want. Rather it is an active way of participating in the working out of God's plan for the world. Prayer can involve words, silence, reading, responding to art, or listening.

Christians look for answers to their prayers in a change to their own actions and attitudes, and are overjoyed when the result is something that they recognise to be a miraculous intervention by God.

But despite that, God undoubtedly registers and responds in some way to all kinds of prayer – even the desperate cry in an emergency of someone who has barely even thought about whether He exists.

A conversation with God of this kind takes many forms:

'Praising' prayers involves a human being putting himself or herself in a place of appropriate humility in front of the God who is utterly holy, loving and just.

'Thanking' prayers are a way of recognising that everything that gives value or joy to life is the gift of a Creator, not merely good fortune.

'Asking' prayers can be personal (such as begging for healing for a sick relative) or immense in scale (such as longing for the end of a war).

'Seeking forgiveness' involves confession of something wrong (either personal or as part of a worldwide injustice) and a recognition that God has mercy on those who regret what they have done and seek to change.

'Looking for guidance' frequently asks God for direction, or seeks understanding in the face of the mysteries involved in being alive.

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

The Church Wardens

Churches stand in ev'ry parish Of this green and pleasant land Some are small, yet so historic Some are large, ornate, and grand.

Some have roofs that need repairing Some have other wear and tear Some have beetles, rot, or woodworm But they all need loving care!

Thousands, then, of ancient churches Being kept up to their prime In the care of all those wardens Giving freely of their time.

Yet much more than just the buildings Occupy these sterling folk! Rotas, meetings, service duties Yet you'll hear them laugh and joke!

So, to all these lovely people Who have so much work to do And do it all without complaining From our hearts, we say "Thank you!"

By Nigel Beeton

Music

Two young vegetarians were getting married and had to choose their wedding music. The minister suggested the voluntary: 'Sheep may safely graze.'

Oldest computer

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Not surprisingly, it was an Apple. But it had an extremely limited memory: just one byte, and everything crashed.



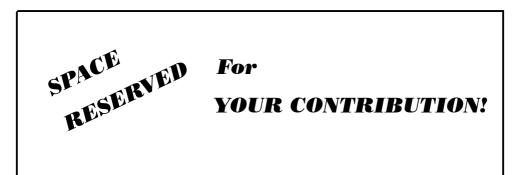
An adventure to Magic Mountain to save a little goose from a wicked troll! by Ben Crocker. Suitable for all ages.

Questors Theatre presents a fun, friendly adventure with Mother Goose - a laugh-out-loud panto. Sing along, shout at the nasty troll, meet the Giant Geese of Boundtobiteyou and even do some yodelling! Oh - and don't forget to wear your Christmas jumper!

In the Judi Dench Playhouse

14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 December at 7.00pm 16, 17, 23, 30 December at 2.30pm 17 and 31 December at 12.00pm and 4.30pm. 1 January at 4.30pm

Last year was a near sell out so BOOK NOW at www.Questors.org.uk or 020 8567 5184



I sought my soul, my soul I could not see. I sought my God; my God eluded me. I sought my brother and found all three.

Anon

Nunc Dimitis

Lord, now let your servant go in peace, According to your word; My eyes are tired, I long for my release From a world become absurd And bored with striving, in its last sad winding Down to death's decay; My youth spend in the joyous quest of finding Truth is mocked. Dismay Now haunts me, and I cannot bear contemplation Of a world enchanted by its own annihilation.

Virginia Rounding

© 1990

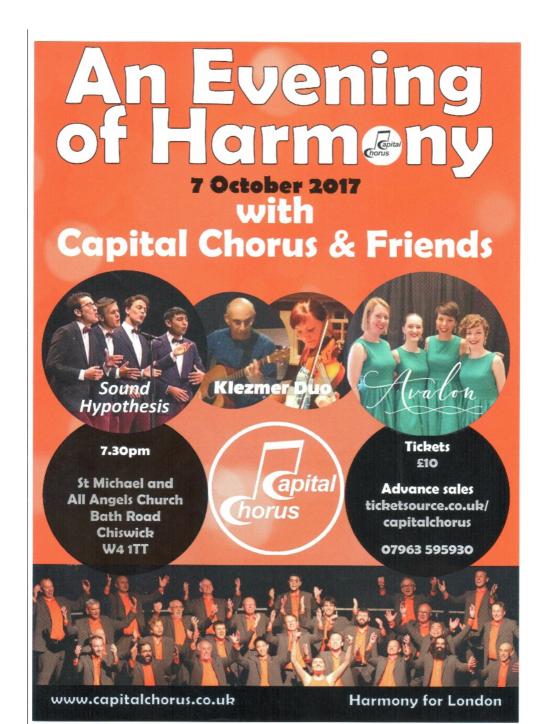
Submitted by Val Elgar

Do you ever feel like protesting?

If you want to protest about a political decision, an activity that concerns you or to support others who have started a campaign you agree with then go to www.38degrees.org.uk

Campaigns are varied and diverse from national ones like 'Universal Credit and Murdoch's Sky takeover' to local issues like 'Stopping the closure of toilets in Clacton, Jaywick and Walton' and 'Uber's license'.

38 Degrees is the angle at which snowflakes come together to form an avalanche – together we're unstoppable.





MIXED UP MONTHS

Words that begin with 'oct' mean to do with the number eight – an octopus has 8 tentacles, an octagon has 8 sides. So October should be the 8th month of the year, shouldn't it? But it isn't.



The reason goes back to Roman October times. was the eiahth month in the Roman calendar until July was added to celebrate the birth month of Caesar. Julius

This was followed by Augustus who also added another month what that one was (quess called!). With these two extra months fitted into the calendar what was the eighth month became the tenth month. Which gets more muddled: because words beginning with 'dec' mean to do with the number ten, so under the old way December was the tenth month. Shall I stop now before we all get even more confused?

00000s

All these names begin with O – which ones aren't the real name of a saint?

- 1. Odo
- 2. Olaf
- 3. Osyth
- 4. Oliver
- 5. Olympias
- 6. Odilia
- 7. Omer
- 8. Oudoceus
- 9. Osburga
- 10. Ouen



Answers: the answer is that they all are real saint's names! Aren't you glad that they didn't call you after some of these saints?

COMING EVENTS OCTOBER

- Mon 2 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 3 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club Dave entertains us
- Wed 4 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly term time only)
- Thu 5 3.30 pm 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 6 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 (term time)
- Sat 7 10.15 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat everyone welcome
- Sun 8 10 am Kingsdown Harvest Festival Service (see p.6)
- Tue 10 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 14 10 am -12 noon Coffee & Chat all welcome 2.00 pm for 3.00 pm celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi) church takes place followed by a meal. (See p.6)
 - 7.00 pm Hanwell Barn Dance (see p.25 of Sep Messenger)
- Tue 17 2.00 pm Tuesday Club The Sunshine Keep Fit Club
- Wed 11 8pm Property Committee (fire safety)

Future Dates for your Diary NOVEMBER

Sat 4 10.00 am - 12.30 pm Kingsdown Book Fair in aid of Methodist Homes

DECEMBER

Wed 6 8pm – Property Committee



The views expressed in articles in The Messenger are not necessarily those of Kingsdown Methodist Church or the Editors.

Data Protection - Kingsdown Methodist Church maintains a database of basic information relating to members and the community roll. Keep the Minister informed of any changes to your personal details. The database is maintained in accordance with the guidelines of The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ to whom any formal requests for access to the data must be addressed.