



The MESSENGER

for the Kingsdown and Pitshanger Church families



June 2012

'Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you.' (John 14.15f)

SERVICES FOR JUNE - KINGSDOWN

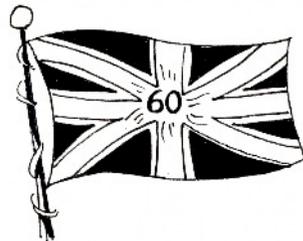


- 3 Jun 10.30 TRINITY SUNDAY - Miss Vera Marston
3.30 Service at Hanwell House
(please try to join us)
6.30 Rev Michaela Youngson
- 10 Jun 10.30 Boys Brigade, Family/Parade Service
6.30 CIRCUIT SERVICE at Ealing Green - Easter Offering Service
- 17 Jun 10.30 Mrs Keji Phillips
6.30 Rev Michaela Youngson, Holy Communion
- 24 Jun 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion & Healing Service
6.30 Mr Akin Phillips

SERVICES FOR JUNE - PITSHANGER



- 3 Jun 10.30 TRINITY SUNDAY - Mr Akin Phillips
- 10 Jun 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion
6.30 CIRCUIT SERVICE at Ealing Green
Easter Offering Service
- 17 Jun 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Family/Parade Service
- 24 Jun 10.30 Mr Mark Budu-Manuel



The MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the combined July/August 2012 issue is
Friday 22 June

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National Leaders

In Psalm 74 the people cry out: *'You have been our king from the beginning, O God; you have saved us many times.'* Those words sum up very well the ideals of the early days of Israel's history when the tribes had their human leaders, but in the end God himself was their only true sovereign.

When some of the tribes suggested to Gideon that his bravery and courage deserved the reward of a permanent position of power, he would have nothing to do with it. It was, he declared, impossible for his people to be ruled both by God and by a human king.

When the Israelites demanded a king, the prophet Samuel warned them about the pitfalls but they took no notice and so reluctantly Saul was anointed as their first King. He proves to have a complex personality and is a tragic figure, dying by his own sword after a crushing defeat at the hands of the Philistines.

So what kind of leadership do we need? How do we achieve the kind of government that is strong enough to give people a real chance to develop their lives, but which does not then exploit and rob them in the way Samuel warned Israel could easily happen if they insisted on becoming *'like other nations'*.

Our political leaders are human. They are vulnerable figures. I am appalled by the way in which the media so often attacks them for the sake of their headlines knowing their readers will just lap it up. Of course sometimes also the leaders fall into the error of overtly foul-mouthing one another. Critique is essential but there should be more focus on policies than personalities.

Saul began well with humility and potential in an enormously difficult situation. He needed more support and praise from his people.

As we celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee I believe we should be profoundly grateful for the leadership she has shown with her particular position in our democracy. And we should continue to pray for a similar sense of humility, service, dignity and responsibility to be shown by our political leaders and by the powerful media.

The following Prayer was written by staff at St Paul's and will be used in the Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral on Tuesday, 5th June 2012. It conveys a sense of our gratitude with the recognition of the sort of qualities needed in all of our leaders.

God of time and eternity,
whose Son reigns as servant, not master;
we give you thanks and praise
that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories
with ELIZABETH,
our beloved and glorious Queen.
In this year of Jubilee,
grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace
as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God
and in devoted service to her lands and peoples,
and those of the Commonwealth,
now and all the days of her life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Roger Dunlop

Kingsdown Family News

We were sorry to learn on Saturday morning that Pearl Pike had rather been admitted to hospital and ask your prayers for her swift recovery, as well as any other members of our church family known to you who are continuing to be in rather an unfit state just at present.

My grateful thanks for all the prayers, cards, and greetings I had while in hospital and since throughout my recovery . Thanks

Ken Pennells

Organist

We are pleased to welcome Greg Lillis as our new organist. Greg takes over from Errol Hui and will play for the great majority of our morning services. It's good to note that all those who have commented have been impressed by his playing!

THE END OF AN ERA

The next issue of the Messenger (combined July/August) will be Kingsdown's last in liaison with Pitshanger. This follows the re-arrangement of Ministers' responsibilities within the Circuit, and coincides with the new Ministers starting in September. As reported in the March/May 'In Touch' our own new Minister, the Rev Peter Cafford, is to have oversight of Kingsdown and Hanwell and his wife Suva will have Pitshanger and Perivale. We shall miss the friends made during this period of union but will no doubt continue to exchange news. Lets make the last issue a BUMBER ONE!!

Editors

Pitshanger Family News

Before our service on Sunday, May 6th, a short service in the church grounds was conducted by our Minister, Rev Roger Dunlop, during which the ashes of Margaret Richards were interred and a plaque put in place. Members of Margaret and David's families were present with those from Pitshanger's congregation.

Two Church Stewards, David Richards and Betty McKenzie, responded to an invitation to join St Barnabas friends for a service on Ascension Day (May 17th), one of the last to be conducted by Father David Deboys who, after five years as Vicar, is moving to a new post at Tewkesbury Abbey. We wish him well.

Good wishes to June Foot as she prepares to move to Swansea to be near her son and his family. Our thanks to her for counting the contents of the Sunday morning coffee boxes for so long and so efficiently, and also for sending out the letters to our preachers every week requesting their hymns and readings.

There is encouraging news about the two Bobs, but please keep up the prayers.

Safeguarding

Twenty-one Kingsdown members completed a session of training in Safeguarding issues on Sunday 13 May as required by Methodist Church policy. The current training module is compulsory for some office holders and recommended for others, and all of those friends have been notified as such. But it is also open to any member or friend of Kingsdown who is interested in becoming more aware of the extent of abuse of children, young people and adults in our Ealing community and more confident in being able to recognise the signs that may suggest that abuse is occurring.

There are three further opportunities to attend the training run by Gill Borg and Suzanne Brown. They will take place at Greenford Methodist Church on Saturdays 23 June and 21 July between 9.30 and 11.30am, and on Monday 9 July between 7.00 and 9.00pm. Refreshments will be served before the start of each session.

Anyone intending going to a session is asked to let me know in advance so that the organisers can be sure to have prepared enough hand-outs for those present on each occasion

Kathleen Loveridge
Kingsdown Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

(The event at Kingsdown was really interesting and well worthwhile attending. Eds)



KINGSDOWN'S ALTERNATIVE OLYMPICS

AN AFTERNOON OF FUN FOR ALL AGES

2pm JUNE 30th 2012

Team Sport and Individual Team Member sports

Can you hit a target, shoot a basket or run in a sack?
Can you flip an after 8 off your nose into your mouth?

Come and give it a try

Free entry

(financial thanks welcomed if you have had fun)

To Find Out More or to Reserve a Place

Please contact Lynda Blackburn 020 8810 9983



Reception Centre Athletes Family Homestay Program - July 25-1 August 2012

We are delighted that, following a visit to Ealing Green on Monday 21st May, by a More than Gold team, it has been agreed that Ealing Green has been accepted as one of the 2 London Based Reception Centres for Athletes Families Homestay. Here, Hosts will be able to meet and greet allocated families, after their arrival at Heathrow.

More than Gold would like to thank Rev Jennifer Smith and Ealing Green Church Council, for their generosity, at such a time as this.

I will be calling for volunteers to man the centre over the next few weeks and further details will be made available.

Blossom Jackson



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Action for Children Sunday this year is on July 8th and envelopes will be in the pews for the Sundays of July 1st, 8th and 15th. Your contribution may be Gift Aided if required. Last year we raised £40 of which £30 was Gift Aided so we are hoping to do better this time. Thank you for your time.



Olwen Britton.

Smiles

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged.

However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," he said "she's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

Submitted by John Axbey

From the Kingsdown General Church Meeting

Kingsdown's annual General Church Meeting was held on 22nd April after the morning service. There were 39 members and adherents present.

The major part of the meeting was taken up with the election or confirmation of stewards and representatives to the Church Council. Shruti Arangaden had asked to become a Vestry Stewards instead of a Church Steward on account of her family commitments. The other church stewards and vestry stewards were happy to continue for a further year and they were confirmed by the meeting.

The full list of Church Stewards is - Esther Ackah, Emily Campbell, Tom Cheriyan, Nerissa Fearon, and Chris Marlow. The full list of Vestry Stewards is – Shruti Arangaden, Faith Hodge, Kathleen Loveridge, Jill Richardson, Akin Phillips, and Lynda Blackburn (evenings)

The current elected representatives to the Church Council were all happy to continue serving. In addition, Blossom Jackson had asked to serve on the Council and was duly elected. The full list of elected representatives is:-

Lynda Blackburn	Olwen Britton	Christina Cheriyan	Rekha Cheriyan
Sybil Corbin	Juliet Edwards	Les Goodchild	Blossom Jackson
Kath Jarrett	Akin Phillips	Keji Phillips	June Thompson
Eileen Tobias	Paul West		

Kath Jarrett joined Jill Richardson as a church rep with Methodist Women in Britain.

Roger Dunlop expressed the thanks of the church to all those who have been involved in the running of the church during the past year, whether in an 'official' or 'unofficial' capacity.

There was a brief update on Phase 2 of the re-development. The Dome Room was in the process of being re-instated. Classroom 3 would be used to store some of the materials that had been stored in the Dome Room, at least for the time being. Various adjustments had been completed to the kitchen and tiling and redecoration would begin shortly. The overall financial position has been summarised in recent issues of the Messenger. In short, at the end of Phase 2 there is insufficient finance available to proceed with Phase 3 re-wiring.

At the same time, other urgent issues have emerged, notably the need to repair the Russell Room roof. Church Council has decided to ask Property Committee to determine priorities and how best to use the funds available.

It was not possible to hold a Christmas Fayre at the end of 2011 because of the building work. However a late Spring/early Summer Fayre is planned for Saturday 23rd June. Funds raised will be used to support the remaining redevelopment work and maintenance requirements of the building.

There was some discussion of the accommodation for Young Church as the use of the upper level in the foyer by groups of differing ages was not proving satisfactory. In view of the fact that the hall is accessible again and the imminent re-instatement of the Dome Room, Young Church leaders were asked to determine who should meet where.

The question was raised in general discussion of what could be done to increase the numbers of people attending church, and whether we should define a particular focus on which to concentrate. One suggestion was that we should focus on older people particularly as other churches in the area had focused on young people and families.

There was a feeling that there were divisions in the church which were off putting, particularly to newcomers, and also that there was something potentially lacking spiritually in the church. Roger Dunlop pointed to positive signs of spirituality and it is also noteworthy that we were considered a friendly church, that Tuesday Club was doing well, Babies and Toddlers was very much appreciated by its users and that the annual Bereavement Service had reached out to significant numbers of people.

The problem of declining numbers is not unique to Kingsdown - the annual October Count showed similar issues across the Circuit and for the Methodist Church as a whole and reflects overall trends in society. Furthermore, the church had been through a very long and at times difficult process with the redevelopment, which had lasted about 10 years. In many respects it is not surprising and perhaps inevitable that there have been differences of opinion as a result. Although there was still some work to be done, the completion of the redevelopment after such a lengthy period now allows the church to reorient itself and to start drawing itself back together as a church family.

The meeting closed with singing 'Captain of Israel's Host and Guide' and the sharing of the Grace.

Gerald Barton

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS



At present I am unable to give a report about the result of Christian Aid Week. However, I think we shall be a little 'down' on our 2011 total, but have already exceeded £3,000!

Richmond Park Harvest Sponsored Walk

This is a very popular event and I have already received enquiries about the 2012 date.

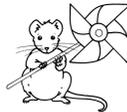
The walk will be held on SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER and I have already received the registration forms. Please let me know if you wish to take part. When a form is completed, you will receive a sponsorship pack containing full details of the sponsored walk and everything one needs for successful fundraising.

FIGHT POVERTY STEP BY STEP

PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES THE DATE OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2013

12 to 19 MAY 2013

Ruby Warne



Jesus – no ordinary man

In biology, he was born without normal conception.

In chemistry, he turned water to wine.

In physics, he disproved the law of gravity when he walked on water.

In economics, he fed 5,000 with two fishes and five loaves of bread.

In medicine, he cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

In history, he is the beginning and the end.

In government, he is the Prince of Peace.

In religion, no one comes to the Father except through him.

Jesus is Lord. Of all things.

BOOK FAIR SATURDAY 7 JULY

Our next Book Fair, with numerous stalls, will be held on 7 July and proceeds are for the United Anglo-Caribbean Society. The UACS runs the George Doyley Home at Southall. This is a residential home for young people from 18 to 25 years of age, but on this occasion another of the UACS projects - a Centre for Senior Citizens at 23 Handbury Road, Acton, will receive the proceeds from the Book Fair.

This Centre is open each week from Tuesday until Friday and lunch is served every day. On Tuesdays and Thursdays they will be able to join in exercise classes, sewing classes, as well as games, bingo, puzzles, etc. On Wednesdays and Fridays, the guests may do just what they like - table games, etc. or just chatting to each other! Everyone is welcome.

Mrs Adeline Elvin is a member of the UACS and will be responsible with other members of the Society for the stalls. She needs cakes, patties, plants, gifts and bric-a-brac. Please do help in any way you can by donating and/or buying from the stalls.

We shall be responsible for the sale of books and at present our supply of books is depleted. We always reserve a table for "new" stock and on the last occasion we were 'saved' by one of our regular supporters who came along with an excellent supply! Please bring along any books you can spare, either on Friday 6 July after 9.15 pm or on Saturday morning 7th from 8.30 am.

Ruby Warne



Know the difference

Committees - they keep minutes and waste hours.

Teams - they know what is to be done, do it, reflect on it, and keep trying to improve it!



A FAIR OLYMPICS



Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about £1.30 a day. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. Millions of people work in poor conditions in sweatshops and factories. They can be made to work over 12 hours a day, with hardly any time for breaks, and still be paid next to nothing.

Too often in the past, sportswear companies have been shown to use sweatshop labour. The International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation recently surveyed 83 factories supplying major sportswear brands including Adidas, Nike and Speedo. The survey found that Sri Lankan workers, most of them women, tend to earn just 10,000 rupees (£55) a month, less than half of a living wage of 23,500 rupees (£131.)

During the Beijing Olympics in 2008 one of the Adidas suppliers was found to be paying workers just £20 a month to glue sports shoes; another demanded workers put in an 80 hour week stitching footballs. In the run up to the 2012 Olympics in London, major sportswear brands should commit to treating their workers fairly.

The London Organising Committee for the games requires suppliers and licensees to sign up to its sustainable sourcing code. This stipulates that workers have a universal right to form trade unions and that workers must be paid a living wage. Unfortunately there is no mechanism for enforcing compliance. In the run up to the Olympics, MRDF is working with War on Want to campaign for a sweatshop-free 2012 games. It is calling on all companies selling clothing, sports equipment and merchandise to eradicate abusive practices in their supply chains.

Take Action

To find out more about sweatshops, download this report.
<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/downloads/Stitched%20Up.pdf>

WOW also has secondary teaching resources about sweatshops and the olympics available <http://www.waronwant.org/act-now/schools-resources>



Campaign success! Government promises action on supermarket bullying

After years of campaigning by activists across the UK the government has finally promised to act to curb supermarket bullying by introducing a supermarket watchdog.

In the Queen's Speech, the government has pledged to introduce new legislation to create a 'Groceries Code Adjudicator' to police the buying practices of the UK's largest supermarkets, including to support workers and farmers in their supply chains.

War on Want has campaigned for many years to end the exploitation and abuse of workers in the supply chains of supermarkets and has been at the forefront of the campaign to introduce a supermarket watchdog. Our research has exposed the reality for workers supplying wine, tea and flowers to supermarkets – facing abuses of their basic rights and poverty pay.

Thousands of people have signed petitions, spoken to their MPs and engaged thousands more in joining the fight for the rights of workers in supermarket supply chains. The supermarkets have resisted the introduction of a watchdog every step of the way, and without the constant pressure from the public this huge step may never have happened.

The proposed watchdog would be responsible for enforcing a code of practice that was introduced in February 2010 following Competition Commission reports in 2000 and 2008 which clearly showed the need for a regulator. Its role would be to stop big supermarkets abusing their powers by passing on excessive risks and costs to their suppliers, which often have huge knock on impacts on workers' rights.

The real battle now will be to decide whether the watchdog will have enough teeth to be able to stop supermarket bullying as the legislation passes through parliament. Without real powers to fine supermarkets, as well as to investigate claims by trade unions and campaigners, not just suppliers, this could still be a dog with no bite.

More on -

<http://waronwant.org/news/latest-news/17511-campaign-success-government-promises-action-on-supermarket-bullying>

Supported by MRDF



Time for Jubilee.....

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,
while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh
when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them...”

Ecclesiastes 12



For some, Robert Louis Stevenson was right when he was referring to this matter of youth, growing up, and looking into the future: “It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.”

Time marches on for all of us. The years fly by. Philosophically, there comes a realisation (usually about middle life) that nothing, including us, lasts forever. We are born, we grow, hopefully we flourish for a time, and then we fade. God did not create us to be here on earth forever. He has given the precious, but transitory, gift of life on this earth, and wants us to make the very most of the time we have.

So when it comes to a Diamond Jubilee celebration, let us consider 60 years. It is a magnificent achievement. Many of us have never known any other British monarch. In this nation that has known the Lord's blessing over thousands of years, let the young rejoice in their youth and remember their Creator while they are still young; let the middle-aged rejoice in where they are in their time-line; and let the old rejoice, along with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and the husband who has stood by her side for more than sixty years. We have so much to be thankful for.

May we be thankful that the Lord has given us such a wonderful woman, under God, to reign over us so diligently for so long. May she know the Lord's mighty blessing upon her and hers – and upon us and ours, that we may be godly and quietly governed, as the dear old 1662 Prayer Book says!

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour;
Long may she reign;
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen

20 Summer Solstice – longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. Sol + stice come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December. While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

A Canticle for Brother Sun
Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

God in All
He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

St Patrick

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian faith

Without God the world would be in a maze without a clue. Woodrow Wilson

Our ecological responsibility rests in our prior responsibility to obey our Creator.

R C Sproul

The universe seems to have been designed by a pure mathematician. James Jeans
Christ has made of death a narrow starlit strip between the companionships of
yesterday and the reunions of tomorrow. William Jennings Bryan

Jesus didn't commit the gospel to an advertising agency; he commissioned disciples.

Joseph Bayly

Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have.

Billy Graham

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books

Gifts

Cakes & Patties

Bric-a-Brac

Plants

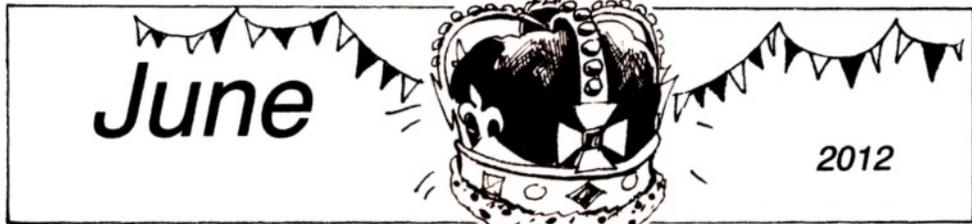
Saturday 7th July

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

United Anglo-Caribbean Society



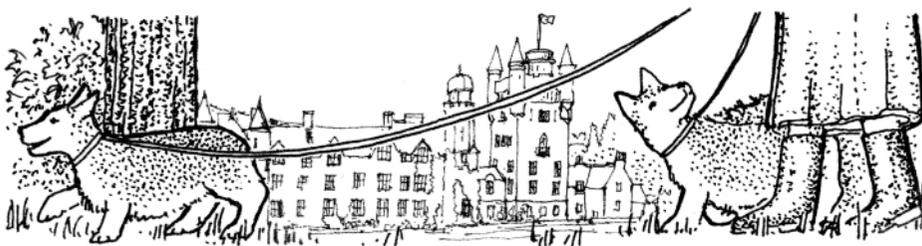
say Grace together at your Big Jubilee Lunch

On Sunday 3 June, the Queen has invited the nation to sit down together with neighbours and friends for a Big Jubilee Lunch. To mark the occasion, a special Grace has been written and seen by Her Majesty:

Grace for Diamond Jubilee Lunches

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, we give you thanks for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth; for her steadfast faith and for her royal service to this nation and all the peoples of the Commonwealth. Bless the food before us and the people beside us; may the sharing of this meal strengthen our communities, and nurture the bonds between us of friendship, hope and trust. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who reigns as servant of all. Amen.

HOPE, the national mission movement, is encouraging churches to take a lead in their communities so that Big Jubilee Lunches start with the Diamond Jubilee Grace, which can be downloaded from the HOPE website www.hopetogether.org.uk.



Data Protection

Kingsdown and Pitshanger Methodist Churches maintain 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.

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WELL FOUND

Blossom Jackson writes: I would like to thank Kingsdown members who contributed to the sponsorship for 'Well Found', at a time when there are currently also requests being made for Christian Aid and Walks!



The sum raised from Kingsdown was £45 which added to the other amounts gave a total of £85.

Other events

You will also find information in the Kingsdown foyer about two events at Westminster Central Hall: an evening of worship, interviews and prayer on 10th June entitled Good Sports, anticipating the forthcoming Games; and a full day conference on 16th June as part of Westminster Women's Outreach.

Unity of Faiths Festival

The Unity of Faiths Festival is the largest free multi-faith festival in Britain and will take place in Southall Park on Sunday 8th July. Launched last year, the festival included representatives from a wide range of faiths — Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Bahai, Buddhist, Sikh & Zoroastrian — and is becoming a regular annual event.

If you would like to get involved you can find out more at www.unityoffaithsfestival.com or contact Sukhdeep Dhillon via e-mail at sukhdeep@unityoffaithsfestival.com.

More than Gold Prayer Guide

With the Olympic Torch making its way around the country, churches are being encouraged to produce a cascade of prayer and praise - with individuals and churches taking time to pray, alone and together, as the Torch travels through their area.

To help churches and their members seize this opportunity, More Than Gold have produced a free guide, 'Praying during the 70-day Prayer Relay'. It has ideas for before, during and after the Torch arrives as well as links to suggested day-by-day prayer topics.

You can find a copy in the Kingsdown church foyer or download a copy from the Circuit website by going to www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/notices.



17 June Father's Day – time to celebrate male role models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, is there a 'spare' father somewhere in our church or your circle of friends whose children cannot be with him, and who would welcome some special treat on the day?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

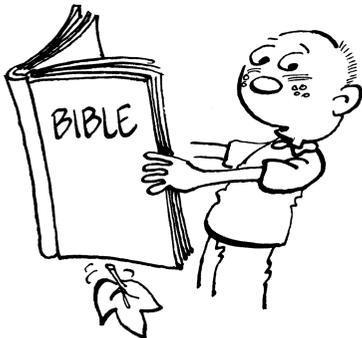
Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: in America, for example, more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day than on any other day of the year!

Seven things that you probably didn't know about global Christianity

One of the key pioneers in collecting information about Christianity and other religions across the world died late last year, in his 80's. Dr David Barrett had amassed a huge data base of basic numbers which now forms the core of the World Religion Database, held in Gordon-Conwell University in the United States. Seven of his many areas of statistics may, however, be of special interest:

- 1) In 2012, there are 43,000 different denominations worldwide (340 are in the UK!).
- 2) In 1900, 70% of the world's Christians lived in Europe, but only 26% in 2012. In 1900, just 2% of the world's Christians lived in Africa, but 22% in 2012.
- 3) In 2012, there are an estimated 4.7 million congregations worldwide, just under half of these in Asia.
- 4) The number of mission workers globally is estimated at 420,000 people.
- 5) The world's population will reach 7.1 billion in 2012, and 2.3 billion (33%) of these will be nominally Christian. A further fifth (22%) are Muslim.
- 6) Half (51%) of the world's population live in urban areas, including 505 "megacities" with a population of over a million people. Of these, perhaps 41% are nominally Christian.
- 7) Half (51%) of the world's Christians are Roman Catholics, a fifth (22%) are Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and other Protestants, one in seven (15%) are Pentecostals and other Independent churches, and the remaining 12% are Orthodox.



A young boy discovered a bible in the attic, opened it and found a large leaf pressed between the pages of Genesis. "Oh, look," he said, "Adam's left his clothes here."



THE SAINT & THE MONSTER

St Columba, whose feast day is 9th June, was born in Ireland and came to Scotland to be a 'pilgrim for Christ'. He founded a monastery on the island of Iona in 563. The monastery at Iona became a centre of learning and many missionaries were trained there. Columba carried the message of God's love throughout Scotland and monks from his monastery carried the message into England.

St Columba wrote a number of hymns and is said to have transcribed, or written out by hand, some 300 books in his lifetime.

And what has he got to do with a monster? Well, it wasn't the Loch Ness monster but a monster that was living in the River Ness. St Columba is said to have driven away this monster who was attacking a swimmer, with the sign of the cross and the words "Thou shalt go no further, nor touch the man; go back with all speed."

MONSTER MUNCHIES

75 g (3 oz) margarine
3 normal size Mars Bars
(thinly sliced)
3 large tea cups Rice Crispies
100 g (4 oz) chocolate cake
covering (melted)
Grease and line a swiss roll tin.



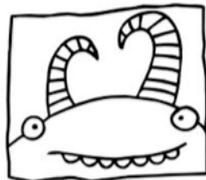
In a heavy based saucepan, gently melt the margarine. Add the Mars Bar pieces and stir until no lumps are left.

Take the pan off the heat and stir in the Rice Crispies – adding more if the mixture will take it. Spread the mixture in the tin and press it down evenly with the back of a spoon.

Cover with the melted chocolate and leave to set. Cut into 24 bars when cold – or cut into less bars if you are feeding a very greedy monster!



How does a
monster count
to 17?



On it's fingers.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

JUNE

- Tue 5 2 pm Kingsdown Club - A Bingo Afternoon with a Quiz
- Fri 8 10.15 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - Everyone welcome
- Sat 9 10.00 to 12.00 Coffee & Conversation in Church Foyer
- Mon 11 2.30 pm Ivy Hanson's Home Group at 137 Clitherow Avenue
8 pm Guides (and most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 12 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Wed 13 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
- Fri 15 BOYS BRIGADE 6.30-7.30 pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm Junior Section
7.30-10.00 pm Company Section (and most Fridays throughout month)
- Tue 19 2 pm Kingsdown Club - The Reminiscence Road Show -
"Yesterdays Children At War"
- Sat 23 Kingsdown's Late Spring FayreJ

JULY

- Sat 7 Book Fair - proceeds to United Anglo-Caribbean Society
- Sat 14 7.30-10.30 pm MWiB 'Stop the Traffik' Concert at Kingsdown
- Sun 15 Kingsdown - Circuit Service of Farewell to Rev's Micky Youngson, Kip Bennett
and Roger Dunlop.



EVENTS AT PITSHANGER

JUNE

- Wed 6 8 pm Wednesday Fellowship - Lunch and Walk at Ruislip Lido.

Prayer Group meets in the Vestry, 11.45 to 12.15, every Thursday. Please join us if you can. First Thursday in the month (June 7th) the Group has lunch together in Pitshanger Lane and anyone is welcome to join us for the meeting or lunch, or both.