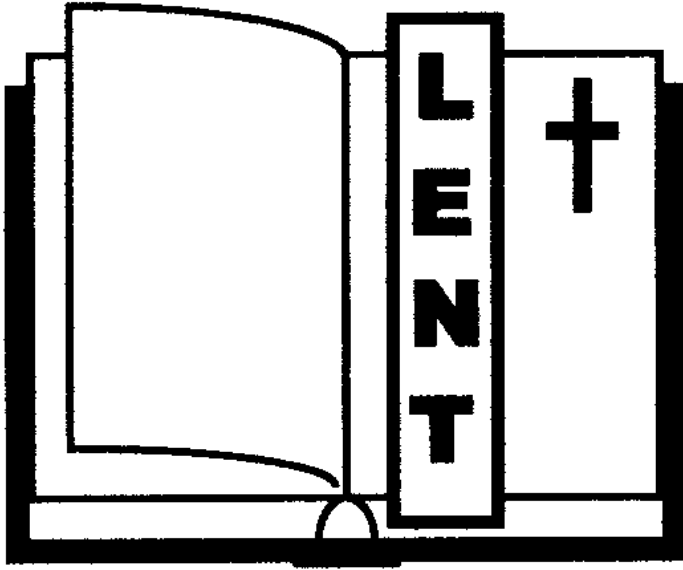




The MESSENGER

for the Kingsdown and Pitshanger Church families



MARCH 2012

'Whoever wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it..' (Mark 8.35)

SERVICES FOR MARCH - KINGSDOWN



- 4 Mar 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion
Network Service with Blossom Jackson
3.30 Service at Hanwell House (please try to join us)
6.30 Local arrangement - Worship Leader Mrs Kathleen Loveridge
- 11 Mar 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Family/Parade Service
6.30 Mr Akin Phillips
- 18 Mar 10.30 Miss Vera Marston
Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion
- 25 Mar 10.30 Rev Rosemary Fletcher, World Church Sunday
6.30 Rev Dr Jen Smith



SERVICES FOR MARCH - PITSHANGER

- 4 Mar 10.30 Local arrangement -
Worship Leader Mrs Kathleen Loveridge
- 11 Mar 10.30 Mrs Vera Marston
- 18 Mar 10.30 Rev. Roger Dunlop, Family/Parade Service & Baptism
- 25 Mar 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion



KINGSDOWN - CHARITY OF THE YEAR

This year's Charity of the Year is the West Ealing Trust/Ealing Soup Kitchen and the third and final event will be the book fair on Saturday March 10th. As well as books there will be refreshments and bric-a-brac. We hope that this will be well supported, to add to the amounts already raised at Harvest and Christmas. The full total will be announced shortly.

Olwen Britton

The MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the April 2012 issue is Friday 23 March

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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On the Job

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, and one of the applicants – who was not known to be the brightest academically, was called in for an interview. "Okay," began the sheriff, "What is 1 and 1?" "Eleven," came the reply. The sheriff thought to himself, "That's not what I meant, but he's right."

Then the sheriff asked, "What two days of the week start with the letter 'T'?" "Today & tomorrow", replied the applicant. The sheriff was again surprised over the answer, one that he had never thought of himself.

"Now listen carefully, who killed Abraham Lincoln?", asked the sheriff. The job seeker seemed a little surprised, then thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know." The sheriff replied, "Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?" The applicant left and wandered over to his pals who were waiting to hear the results of the interview. He greeted them with a cheery smile, "The job is mine! The interview went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

Lent is a time when we reflect on Jesus' first days on the job. The most obviously thing is that he didn't rush straight into it. He spent 40 days working out how he should go about it.

So take time this Lent to reflect on your work for God. The sheriff asked some standard questions but got some surprising answers. Look afresh at the Gospels – how is God speaking to you now? How have things changed in how you can serve Him?

& we are all working on a murder case. What does the death of Christ mean for me or for Kingsdown? We can so easily take it for granted.

The minister stood to the side of the congregation, to "see how the drama was going." The youth were hushed now, as "Christ" hung there and spoke these words to the youth group: "Even though you are doing this to me, I still love you." And then, the minister noticed an 8 year-old girl standing in the front of the group, transfixed by the scene. He looked at her and saw real tears streaming down her face. "And," the minister states, "I was envious of her." For us "professionals" it was a "performance." For her, it was the real thing. She was there.

Here is the good news, the cross says to us that God never gives up on us. We may give up on some people, we may give up on ourselves, but God never gives up. & He includes us in His job.

Roger Dunlop

Kingsdown Family News

Over the past few weeks, many of our church family have been suffering from various forms of ill health. Please continue to remember in your prayers **Lucky Blackwood**, **Alf Edminson**, **Peter Loveridge** and **Nerissa Watson**, and any others known to you who may not have been mentioned. We wish them all well - really soon.

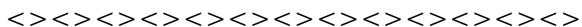
The good news is that **Violet Cordon** was back with us last Sunday morning; **Pearl Pike** is recovering well following her recent operation (and has even made it to coffee morning); and **Ruby Warne** is out and about again following a fall which injured her shoulder. (I don't think I can ever recall a previous occasion when Ruby wasn't able to guide and direct operations at a Book Fair - you were missed Ruby.)

Funerals

The funerals have taken place of **Christine Mclachlan** on 28 January, **Sonia Graham** on 3 February, and **Ronald Atkins** on 22 February 2012. Condolences to family and friends of the deceased.

Susan Young has sent a letter following her husband Jim's death, which can be found on page 6.

For those of you interested in other local news, 'In Touch' this quarter mentions the retirement as Local Preachers of **Graham Preedy**, and **David Groves**, and we add Kingsdown's thanks for their commitment and service over so many years, and send them good wishes for the future. Also mentioned is the death of **Colin Pratt** and more details are included in Pitshanger's 'Family News'.



WOMEN'S NETWORK & JMA

The Book Fair on 11 February raised £330. My thanks go to everyone who supported the event in any way.

Jill Richardson

Safeguarding

A copy of the 'Kingsdown Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults' is now available on the Kingsdown website at:

<http://kingsdownmethodist.org.uk/welcome/safeguarding/>

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Kathleen Loveridge.

Pitshanger Family News

Our Family Service on 19 February was a little different! Two friends of Roger's from Christian Magicians, **Jean Purdy** and **Bob Sacco**, professional magicians and members of the Magic Circle, took part (Jean being in the Guinness Book of Records as a World Champion fireeater!).

There were also "Thinking Day Reflections" from Rainbows, Brownies and Guides with their leaders, and promises were renewed - the Rainbows now being allowed to salute.

Chloe Fretwell read the lesson beautifully and we heard the prayer said by the Rainbows before they go home after their regular meetings.

As noted in the latest 'In Touch', **Colin Pratt** died suddenly before Christmas. Although an Anglican Lay Reader and a member of St Peter's, Colin was given his Bishop's permission to preach in our Circuit and came to Pitshanger quite frequently before retiring in 2005 as Warden of Moullin House, then moving to live in the Lot and Garonne area of South West France where he became part of the community at Parranquet. Some may remember his remark that 'as a confirmed bachelor he was surprised to find himself in the Pitshanger pulpit on Mothering Sunday!'



Circuit Lent Course 2012 : 'Ways of Praying'



This year's Lent Course will explore the different approaches to prayer of a variety of Christian traditions – Benedictine, Celtic, Ignatian, Taizé, Anglican and Charismatic.

Sessions will be led by our Circuit ministers and friends and will be on Tuesday evenings at Greenford in the church parlour from 08.00 – 09.30pm, repeated on Thursdays mornings at Pitshanger from 10.00-11.30am.

The first sessions will be on 28th February/1st March and the course will run weekly for 5 weeks until 27th/29th March. Full details are available on the Circuit website at www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/lent-course.



From Susan Young

"A word of thanks to all at Kingsdown, and beyond, for the cards, letters and kind messages of love, support and prayers you have sent to me and the family since Jim has died; they were very much appreciated.

I would like to offer special thanks to those of you who came to share with us in Jim's funeral service: it meant a great deal to us to have you there. Despite the sadness, it was a real celebration of his life and a very joyful occasion.

I felt more than privileged that my niece, a Methodist Minister in Lincoln, was able to come and conduct the service. With our dear friend Gillian at the organ, and our children, and me, taking part in the service we had so very carefully planned together, it was a truly fitting tribute to Jim.

From October, I had carers calling three times a day to help me care for Jim, which enabled me to keep him at home, which is what I had always hoped to be able to do.

We spent a precious time together, with the family, on Christmas Day and Boxing Day; Jim was up and dressed, he was only confined to bed for two days, and died on 28th December. He was pain free and comfortable; he died very peacefully, and I was with him: I could not have hoped for better for him, or for me.

We are going to miss Jim but, we have been grieving for him for a long while, because over the years we have had to deal with so many losses; but in time it will become easier to remember and treasure all the happy memories of the life we all shared with him, before his cruel illness, day by day, and bit by bit, robbed us of him. His illness had been long and painful, but he bore it graciously and with courage, never saying 'it's not fair', or 'why me?'; he endured it without complaining, I did enough of that for both of us!

After the funeral, family and friends - 35 in all - came back to the house for a fish and chip supper. It was the kind of gathering that had been commonplace in Leighton Road, but not here, since our move to Brighton. Jim would have loved to have seen the house full with people, chatter, laughter, and reminiscing maybe he did?

My family and friends are wonderful, and I have felt completely surrounded by their love and care. I am sure the days ahead will have their challenges, but I feel very blessed, and at peace. I feel positive, confident and full of hope for the future; that 'all will be well'.

I have a tape recording of Jim's funeral service if anyone would like to borrow it, let me know and I will send it to you."

Susan Young

The Kingsdown Congregation and its Responsibilities

You may remember an article that Gerald Barton wrote in the winter edition of In Touch reflecting on the case of the Methodist Local Preacher and Church employee Keith Morton who was convicted of child sexual abuse. Rev Will Morrey, a former President of the Methodist Conference, currently serving with Action for Children, chaired an inquiry into the events which found that not only had children been groomed by this man, but that he had deceived youth leaders, parents, ministers and others. The inquiry concluded that too few people in the church were sufficiently aware of the potential risks that children, young people and vulnerable adults face, and largely ignorant of the tell-tale warning signs that abuse was occurring or being planned. Rev Morrey concluded that " . . . part of the way forward is a need to recognise that safeguarding . . . is the responsibility of the whole church, not just those for whom it is part of their job description."

In response to this conclusion, an event has been planned for Kingsdown and Pitshanger members to hear more about the issue from a local perspective. Gill Borg, formerly an Ealing primary school headteacher, and currently the Education Authority's officer with responsibility for Safeguarding training, will lead a 2 hour session at Kingsdown on Sunday 13 May which is open to all who want to learn more about this important subject. It will also provide those who are under an obligation to undergo basic training in Safeguarding to complete the Module that is required of them this year. That group includes all those who work in any way with children, young and vulnerable adults, including those who are Pastoral Carers, unless they have already have a certificate confirming that they have completed the previous course, called Module A.

The Module concentrates significantly on how to recognise the warning signs that abuse is being planned or committed and, of course, has value not just for church activities but for any time that we are engaged with children, young people or those who might be particularly vulnerable to abuse as adults. Gill's personal experience of recognising the signs of abuse will make this a very relevant and practical session, and an opportunity of developing our pastoral skills within the circle of our own church family. So you are urged to come, whether or not you need to complete the Foundation Module of the Safeguarding Training at this stage.

Lunch will be served from 12 noon on 13 May, and the session will begin at about 12.30pm. Nearer the time there will be a list for intending participants to sign, but please, put the date in your diary, now!

Kathleen Loveridge: Kingsdown Safeguarding Co-ordinator



KINGSDOWN REDEVELOPMENT NEWS

Redevelopment Phase 2: Financial Outcome

As you will all know, Pryer Construction completed their work on Phase 2 of the redevelopment in January and Court Catering installed new kitchen units around the Christmas break. However, there were problems with the fitting of the units and it emerged that some errors had occurred. Harold Blackburn has negotiated with Court to get these rectified, including the complete replacement of one unit. Full completion of the kitchen, however requires fitting of splashbacks and redecoration which will take a few weeks. We are hoping that all of this work can be completed by the end of March.

In the meantime, work is in hand to bring Classroom 3 on the upper level back ready for use. This involves re-fitting an internal door and carpeting the room and can be done whilst we are waiting for Court to take the required remedial action in the kitchen. The Dome Room is currently divided into two by a partition (erected so that chairs etc could be stored whilst the main work was in hand) and this needs to be removed and the room redecorated. This will be done after the kitchen has been completely finished and any electrical wiring issues addressed. Currently, we are planning for the Dome Room to be back ready for use by about the end of April. This will bring Phase 2 to its completion.

Financially, how have we fared? The answer in short is not as well as we had hoped. This table summarises the overall position (VAT included on all cost figures).

Total Funding Available at 31.01.12	£326,491	
Pryer Construction		£265,040
Waterflow (drain lining)		£4,770
Kitchen		£38,468
Other		£6,625
Total Cost Phase 2		£315,903
Funding remaining	£11,588	

Firstly, the final cost of the work done by Pryer Construction at £265,040 including VAT was £55,972 more than the original quoted cost. We had allowed a contingency of £35,000 + VAT (ie £42,000), which means we overspent what we had allowed in total by £13,972. The principal causes of the increase in costs were additional work on foundations (£12,498), changes to the requirements for bricks and blocks (£10,741), the new glazed screen and door to the Dome Room – an item added to the contract (£7,140) and additional work in the car park (£6,934). We did, however get relief of VAT on providing disabled facilities amounting to £5,240.

The kitchen has also worked out significantly more expensive than anticipated. The total cost including the new units, plumbing, electrical and redecoration has amounted to £38,468 – about double what we had allowed. One of the main reasons for this is that we had worked on the basis that we could obtain new units *gratis* from Howdens Joinery. On closer investigation, this ‘offer’ proved to be unworkable – units were only available on a ‘pot luck’ basis being what the local Howdens depot had to hand and could not be readily tailored to meet our needs. Some costs were, however saved as the kitchen was stripped out in-house by volunteers and Harold Blackburn spent much of his Christmas break along with others preparing it for the new units to be fitted.

At the end of this, we still have funds left although these are very much less than estimates for re-wiring the hall. We do have additional funds available in the form of loans from members, but these will need to be rolled over and the repayment date extended. A survey of the wiring is being undertaken. This will identify what needs doing and will lead to cost estimates for the work.

At the same time, it has emerged that work needs doing urgently on the Russell Room roof. Similar work is also likely to be needed on the hall roof, although this is not as critical. We will therefore need to prioritise what is done in order to make best use of the funds we have available. Regrettably, this will mean that some work, however desirable has to be deferred until funds are available.

Finally, in last month’s Redevelopment News in the Messenger, an item of expenditure was labelled ‘Harold’. For the sake of clarity, this item was not remuneration to Harold Blackburn. Rather, it related to reimbursing him for expenses he had incurred in the purchase of various materials required for the kitchen and redecoration of the hall, and for hire of the skip when the old kitchen was stripped out.

Gerald Barton
Secretary to Project Committee
16th February 2012

METHODIST HOMES



The Kingsdown November book fair and appeal raised a total of £441 63p for Methodist Homes, £311 63p from the book fair and £130 from the appeal. There were 11 Gift Aided envelopes totalling £100.

I am truly grateful for all the support received for these events.

Olwen Britton.

BOOK FAIR



Books



Gifts



Bric-a-Brac

Saturday 10th March

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

All proceeds to:

Kingsdown's Charity of the Year:

'Ealing Soup Kitchen'

Kingsdown Young Church

Our oldest group of young people is in urgent need of additional leaders to go on the rota. Materials are provided and all who have done this in the past have found it most rewarding and satisfying. Please contact Roger Dunlop or Brenda Glassman if you would like to know more or if you have any suggestions.



Happily Ever After?

A new musical by Jonathan Cheriyan

Kingsdown Methodist Church Hall

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January 2012

Once upon a time ... a very talented group of teenagers gathered together and, under the direction of a brilliant young wizard, they created a magical musical show entitled "Happily Ever After?".

Long-term friends and members will be familiar with Kingsdown's long-standing reputation for excellence in theatrical and musical productions. Jonathan Cheriyan has added to that line of success by writing, directing and presenting his second Kingsdown show.

Four months of hard work and rehearsal resulted in a most entertaining modern take on the old-fashioned Fairy Tale: familiar characters (Prince Charming and Cinderella, for example) were given a "Glee"-style makeover and exchanged lots of dialogue via iPhones and Blackberrys.

The script was witty and well-delivered by the dozen or so cast: clever use of the narrator and assorted theatrical devices kept the story moving along at a cracking pace, pausing only for applause and laughter.

The songs (again, composed by Cheriyan) helped push the narrative and develop character, and were nicely sung by the whole cast. The players displayed no nerves and jumped right in to each refrain. The small but splendid pit band was superb and played with taste and discretion, never overpowering the young voices.

The costumes and scenery added strong support to the production and the backstage crew performed just as well as their on-stage comrades.

The local newspaper turned up and ran a nice feature on the show and the work that had gone into it, highlighting the fact that all profits were directed to charity. What great publicity for the young people of Kingsdown and the Northfields community.

Dozens of willing volunteers were involved in putting this show together and hundreds of delighted audience members were delighted to watch and enjoy it. I'm not sure who had the most fun!

Did they live happily ever after?

Oh, yes they did.

Tony Plews



Methodist Women in Britain Women's Network London District



Craft Day - 10th March

The annual Women's Network Craft Day will take place at Christ Church Methodist Church, Uxbridge. Any one wishing to learn a new skill and have fellowship, can contact Gillian Oxman direct. This year there are some new and interesting workshops. Please see the details and application Forms on the Notice Board.

Blossom Jackson

Athletes Family Homestay & Games Pastors

Would you be willing to host a family of an athlete who will be competing in the 2012 Olympics Games, for up to 8 Days (1-2 adults).

Volunteers are urgently needed to meet and greet people at Heathrow and the main line alighting stations, during the Olympics. Is this another way in which you could express your discipleship and help to make the Olympic Games in our country successful?

A Prayer Baton will precede the Olympic Torch, so please remember that the torch will be coming to Ealing! Look out for further information in due course.

Please visit www.morethangold.org.uk and have a look at the 'Get Set' Program.

You can also contact Blossom Jackson- Coordinator- Athletes Family Homestay- Methodist Church - London District & Gold Champion - for first hand information.

How many words does it take?

- Pythagorean Theorem: 24 words.
- Lord's Prayer:..... 66 words.
- Archimedes' Principle: 67 words.
- Ten Commandments: 179 words.
- Gettysburg address: 286 words.
- US Declaration of Independence : 1,300 words.
- US Constitution with all 27 Amendments: 7,818 words.
- EU regulations on the sale of cabbages:..... 26,911 words.

Puts things into proper perspective, doesn't it?



HOPE IN THE RUBBLE - STORIES FROM HAITI

In the previous Messenger I wrote about a visit from Aldrin Calixte, director of Christian Aid's partner in Haiti, who will be visiting Inter Church House on Wednesday, 7 March at 12.30 pm. Please do let me know if you will be coming so I can remind you about travelling arrangements.

On 26 January supporters from Kingsdown went to Inter Church House to see the materials and learn about the programme for CA Week 2012. We had a good time, the afternoon session was well attended, and I understand a similar number attended in the evening. This year it is the turn of Sierra Leone.

LET'S END POVERTY

Christian Aid Bookmark

Its a new dawn for fishing and farming communities supported by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. New tools and techniques are providing a way out of poverty and bringing hope for a brighter future.

Elsewhere in this magazine, you will see an article headed The Power of Standing Together. This tells the story of Tenneh Keimbay and shows her with others in the food production group set up by the Christian Aid partner - the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone - do read this article.

During the coming weeks, I shall be contacting many of you about helping during Christian Aid Weel (13 to 20 May), Flag Day 19 May, and Circle the City on 20 May. However, please don't wait to be asked and NEW supporters will be very welcome! On 12 May we have our Annual Christian Aid Fair with books and numerous stalls - cakes, gifts, bric-a-brac and plants. We need your support.

But prior to all these events, we have the Christian Aid Service to be held on Sunday 6 May and this year it will be led by Dr Anita Oji.

A lot to do - but if we all work together, we shall succeed.

Ruby Warne

The power of standing together



© Christian Aid / Heidi Bradner

Tenneh Keimbay stands with others in the food production group set up by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL). By working together, the farmers have become a powerful force for change.

Christian Aid Week tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals all year round, whereas before it was one. They are growing well; they don't cry around me because of hunger. They are happy to go to school because something is in their stomach.'

The benefits of regular food speak for themselves. But the effects of the food production group have been more wide-ranging than this. Tenneh speaks of the huge difference working in a group has made to her. Acting together, the farmers can share their skills and work more efficiently. As she tells us, the bottom line is that 'the group work provides more food'.

Tenneh speaks of the support and the encouragement that the farmers give to each other, and how much can be achieved when the community comes together. 'What inspires me in life is unity,' she says. 'To me, unity means coming together to decide on one thing and take that forward.'

Now that they are no longer limited by hunger, the people of Gbap (pronounced Bap) have come together and successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre for the community. The people of Gbap have taken their future into their own hands.

During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise house-to-house collections and events to raise funds to enable organisations like MCSL to carry out their work transforming communities such as Gbap. Christian Aid currently works with 507 partners in 47 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East,

Latin America and the Caribbean, helping people to make change happen. Our donations will be multiplied many times over as many small actions come together to make a huge change. But the giving that takes place during Christian Aid Week is not one-way.

Unity is something that our churches are not always good at, and the value of community that has inspired Tenneh is something that we can learn from and be changed by. Christian Aid Week is about raising funds. But it is also a call to unity – an invitation for churches to come together and celebrate the possibility of hope and life in parts of the world where mere survival can be a struggle.

This is a challenge, because division and inequality and injustice will always be easier than unity. But Tenneh's insistence that remarkable things can happen when we come together is not new. We see it in the actions and ministry of Jesus, who pushed against all that leads to violence and separation and

called his disciples to model a new way of community.

Can we use this Christian Aid Week to allow ourselves to be changed? If we can work together, with each other, with our churches and with our neighbours both at home and as far away as Gbap, then we may start to see huge change happen.

Tenneh says that 'when you are a group and work with focus and total commitment, you work at a faster rate; the stronger ones can help with work that weaker ones cannot do by themselves'. As we engage in Christian Aid Week, we can rejoice as we stand together in solidarity. Although we might ask who is the strong and who is the weak – and who is actually giving to whom.

Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people like Tenneh the tools to make big change happen.

£6.50/€7.50 could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer living in the town of Gbap.

£50/€57.50 could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.

£123/€141.50 could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.



Coming and going

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.



FORGOTTEN EMERGENCIES

**Cambodia - Djibouti -
Philippines - Ladakh -
Agatha - Typhoon
Megi - Mali - Sierra
Leone - Cameroon**

In 2011, 206 million people globally were affected by over 300 major natural disasters. Many of these catastrophic events did not make the news headlines in the UK. For example, over 23,000 people were affected by floods in Cambodia, and 22,533 people were affected by drought and a food crisis in Djibouti, both of which remained largely unpublicised. In December 2011 tropical storms hit the Philippines and made global news, but according to the United Nations these storms were just one of 33 individual disasters in the Philippines in 2011, most of which went unreported.

MRDF responds to both well publicised and so called 'forgotten' emergencies. Just because a disaster didn't make our news headlines doesn't mean it was any less catastrophic for those involved.

Natural and man-made emergencies increase the vulnerability of people who are already living in poverty and reduce their resilience to future dangers. MRDF aims to provide for the immediate needs of those affected by disasters, and works with communities to rebuild services, housing and incomes, allowing them to reconstruct their lives and prepare for the future.

In 2011 we provided vital humanitarian aid in 22 separate emergencies in 18 countries. We focused about a fifth of our humanitarian aid on support to people affected by forgotten or hidden emergencies. This included responding to flash floods and landslides in Ladakh, India; tropical storm Agatha in Guatemala; and Typhoon Megi in the Philippines. We responded to food crises in Mali and Sierra Leone. Supported victims of tribal conflict in Cameroon, and supported long term rehabilitation work after the earthquake in Samoa.

By donating to MRDF, you can help provide vital relief to those affected by emergencies both big and small.



CLOCKS GO FORWARD ON SUNDAY MARCH 25TH



LIVE BELOW

THE LINE

Surviving on £1 each day is the reality facing 1.4 billion people living below the extreme poverty line. Live Below the Line challenges people in developed countries to eat spending the same amount as people living in extreme poverty.

Last year, Live Below the Line helped to raise over £9,000 for MRDF's long-term development projects, as people who took part were sponsored by their friends and families. This year you can get involved by:

Living below the line for MRDF and being sponsored to live on £5 for five days worth of food

Taking part in a Live Below the Line activity, like holding a cooking competition, or cake sale.

The Live Below the Line online fundraising facility will be available from March 1 2012. It will allow you to create a participant profile, set a fundraising target, and blog about your experiences. There will also be printable sponsorship forms available for those who prefer to do their fundraising offline.

Can YOU take the challenge of living below the line?

Contact MRDF direct on 020 7467 5132 or

<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/get-involved/live-below-the-line>

or speak to Alan or Pam Smith 020 8840 4803

Last year former Vice-President of Methodist Conference, Dr Richard Vautrey, and his family lived below the line for a week.

The Methodist Church's four strategic leaders, including General Secretary Martyn Atkins, took up the challenge of living on £1 a day for five days.



Community Bible Study International (UK)

Ealing

Friends yet again we have started the Bible Study for this term and want to share with you the blessings we have had.

We are studying the books of Ruth and Esther which runs for ten weeks. I led an introductory session on the 12th of January and the following week we started the book of Esther which took four weeks. We were blessed by four life-transforming talks which brought out truths and life applications from the passage for the week.

These talks were from different churches including the Methodist, Anglican, Baptist and Blessed Community.

To finally round up the study of the book of Ruth, one of us – Blossom Jackson gave us a summary of the whole book which is included below.

We have started Esther, all are welcome. You do not need to come every week nor having any knowledge of the study just come as you are.

Rachel Kamara

Ruth Ch. 4 - NIV.

The Story of Ruth's marriage does not start during the event of the marriage itself which is not detailed in the narrative. Because we are told that Ruth, a Moabite woman had Ruth Marries Boaz, (Some reflections on CBS Studies- Kingsdown)-married Mahlon one of the son's of Naomi and Eliminec, Israelites who had left for Moab during a time of famine in Bethlehem- Judah, their homeland. They also went with their other son, Chilion who had married Orpah who like Ruth was also a native of Moab.

The events of Ruth's life took place in the final decades of the turbulent rule of the Judges and wars with the Moabites. So, when Naomi and her family traveled to

Moab, a land rich with fertile ground, there was temporary peace. (Judges 3:12- 30)

We are told, that the problems for Naomi, Ruth and Orpah started, when the three women's husband died and despite becoming embittered and having made her decision to return home to Bethlehem, Naomi had given, what she considered would to be in the best interest of her daughters-in law, the advice that they should stay in Moab.

Among the books of the Bible, only two bears the name of women- Ruth and Esther, Both written centuries apart, featured iconic women of destiny who not only displayed special personal attributes,

but have marked their places in history, having come from humble beginnings.

Ruth, a young widow and a Gentile, displayed behavioral characteristics, such as faithfulness to her widowed mother-in-law, compassion, selflessness, humility, kindness and a deep trust in the God of Israel whom she had grown to love through the influence of Naomi, surely! Remembering, that although Israeli men were allowed to marry, Moabite women, these women were not permitted to enter Israeli places of worship. *In Mathew 10: V10 Jesus said to his Disciples.* "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much"

Esther on the other hand, was a Jewish girl and a servant who rose to become Queen and had risked her life, to protect the Jewish people from a plot to destroy them.

The book of Ruth is a Kaleidoscope of a human story which not only inspire but offers to us, glimpses of the mind of God and the lessons that can be learnt, is timeless through out generations. The lessons include, what it means to trust God even though we can only 'see through a glass darkly' at times, since God has the big picture of all humanity and how we figure in the overall scheme of things. So if we follow and believe in him, we can be recipients of God's grace, because he loves us all.

Preparation for Marriage

Ruth unlike Orpah who returned to her family, had accompanied the embittered Naomi back to Bethlehem despite her Mother-in-law's protestation, decided to glean grain to feed both herself and Naomi so that they could subsist. (Leviticus 19:9; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19)

This was a form of welfare where the poor were cared for, at harvest time.

During this time Naomi had been studying Ruth's conduct and one could easily deduce that Ruth's Beauty was both Inward and outward. The Godly owner of the field in which she gathered grain that was left over, as was the custom and practice at harvest time in the Jewish culture, had also began to notice her. Furthermore, Naomi had not wanted her beloved daughter-in-law to remain an obscure widow even though Ruth herself did not aspire to thoughts of that kind, save that of looking after Naomi and had remained virtuous. Naomi, who was also aware that Boaz was a good man and a kinsman of Eliminech, contrived a way for her daughter-in-law to approach Boaz with the request to assume the role of a kinsman that could lead to a levirate marriage. She therefore took steps by advising Ruth on the ritual of sleeping by Boaz's feet whilst he was asleep one night at the threshing floor and this proved ultimately to be a positive action, in that Boaz proved that he was interested in her. Because, Ruth who had acted on Naomi's advice had returned to Naomi with almost a bushel of barley- considerably more than the normal yield of a day's gleaning and had relayed to the older woman how Boaz had sought to protect her virtue.

Naomi concluded that "the Lord in His kindness" had directed her daughter-in-law to the field of a relative, had considered that, if Boaz should act in the capacity of a kinsman, this chance meeting could hold prospects of additional and more permanent help. There was no doubt about Boaz's interest in Ruth before that night, since he had already taken steps to look after her welfare such

as - securing a place for her, close to his maidens; protecting her against being molested, advising her not to glean in any other field; asking Ruth to become his guest at lunch and advising her that she should glean 'even among the sheaves and no longer after the reapers.' Not averse to Ruth's bold action, Boaz, although quite keen, deferred acting on the set expectation of a kinsman, sought out the kinsman who was nearer to Eliminech than he and apprised him of his rights in the matter

Boaz at once, took steps to clear up the situation, when this nearest kinsman waived his right of redemption, upon hearing of the condition for the obligation i.e. not only would he have to marry Ruth and buy Eliminech's land but that their offspring would carry on the line of

Eliminech. This to Boaz's delight resulted in his marriage to Ruth, having publicly notarized the fact, legally, with the elders and acquiring the title to her dead father-in-law's property. Boaz and Naomi's marriage produced son, named Obed, whom Naomi cared for as her own son and her happiness returned. Obed was the ancestor of King David and Christ.

The story not only illustrates the godliness of individuals who believe and trust God and his redemptive power, who in the person of Christ came on earth to save us by dying on the cross for our sins. God, allowed a strange set of circumstances, as we might well see in this story, plus a resolute obedience of faith on the part of the key players, combined to make Ruth, Christ's ancestor.

Blossom Jackson



Look for good pasture

There are some people who inspire you to be all you can as a Christian. When you meet one of these, stay near them, and learn all you can from them. We are affected by the people whom we spend time with – pray that you will meet people who will lift you up, and not drag you down, in your Christian walk. The Bible says: 'He who walks with wise men will be wise.' (Proverbs 13:20)

Many Christians admit that their present Christian faith was built on the wonderful example of Christians they met during their teenage years. They were inspired and encouraged and moulded by these older Christians. What a wonderful gift they were given. Good spiritual nourishment is vital for building a strong, vibrant faith.

Seeing God bless someone else can increase your desire to reach higher, and also be blessed in that way. When you see a 'successful' Christian, don't be envious, and want to sabotage them. Instead, be inspired and ask God to use you in some fruitful way. But remember – Jesus said that HE is the vine, and we are only the branches. No branch is ever going to flourish unless it stays deeply attached to the vine.

From Parish Pump



**Launch Event
Ealing Town Hall (Elizabeth Cantell Room)
Wednesday 7 March 12 noon to 4.00 pm**

Age Concern Ealing is changing! From March 2012, the Borough's leading charity working with and for older people will be known as Age UK Ealing.

Everyone is welcome to our launch which will showcase the range of services we offer to older people in Ealing, including:

- Advice, Information and Advocacy
- Day Care Centre
- Social activities and clubs
- Education and training
- Campaigning

Please drop along at any time during the event to find out about our services and how we can all make life better for Ealing's 75,000 older residents.

'Methodists for World Mission' Conference 2012

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, 25-27 May 2012.

'Scaling the hurdles in Africa: Hope & Challenge to the Church in the 21st Century'. Cost £120 per person; £150 en-suite. Booking Forms in the foyer.

Further details: Diana Bosman, Tel: (0121) 308 2251 www.mwm.org.uk All are welcome.

Encouragement to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the whole community

The Church of England is encouraging its 13,000 parishes to engage with communities to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, as it announces its participation in two national initiatives - The Big Jubilee Lunch and The Big Thank You. The brainchild of the Eden Project and championed ecumenically by HOPE, The Big Jubilee Lunch will see millions across the country joining together to have lunch on the afternoon of Sunday, 3rd June.

More details from: www.diamondjubilee.churchofengland.org

A prayer for justice and peace

Lord God, you have opened my eyes to the world around me.

Let these eyes not grow weary because of what they see:

*war instead of peace,
despair instead of hope,
profit instead of prosperity,
want instead of need,
statistics instead of people,
destruction and pollution instead of nurture and growth.*

I know your continual challenge to me: to pursue a life of justice and peace.

I know you have provided me the tools to make a difference.

Your message has lit a spark within.

Ensure that I will continue to look upon the people of the world as my neighbours

*that I will not stay quiet as injustice continues
that I will not let hatred or despair win over love and hope
that I will not let your people become statistics that remove their humanity
that I will not sit by as your world is damaged beyond repair.*

I pray that you will keep the fire burning within me. Amen.

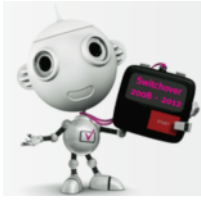
John Cooper, Methodist Relief and Development Fund

Sent away

An irritated mother complained to her friend: "When I was a kid, my parents sent me to my room without supper if I misbehaved. But my son has his own TV, telephone, computer, and every computer game and CD player in his room!"

"So how do you handle it?" her friend asked.

"I send him to MY room!"



TV SWITCH TO DIGITAL STARTS 4 APRIL

The London TV region's analogue signal will be switched off from 4 April 2012.

Some 12 million viewers are set to be affected by the digital switchover in London. A third of UK homes have already switched to digital, but the London region is set to be the biggest. Some 12 million viewers will be affected in the London area and Digital UK estimates that four million analogue sets need to be converted.

Analogue BBC Two will disappear in London and neighbouring parts of Berkshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey on 4 April 2012.

The remaining analogue channels - BBC One, ITV1, Channel Four and Channel Five - will then be turned off on 18 April 2012.



The Help Scheme is run by the BBC and can help everyone who is eligible disabled, aged 75 or over, registered blind or partially sighted or anyone who has lived in a care home for 6 months or more with everything they need to switch one TV to digital. Our standard option is available for an all-inclusive cost of £40. This help is free if you or someone you care for is eligible and also gets certain income-related benefits.

If you have received a Help Scheme letter, please reply even if you don't need help. You can either: Fill in the online reply form or Call us free on 0800 40 85 900

If you need any more help or information, please get in touch.

Call us free on 0800 40 85 900. Our phone lines are open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 8am-6pm Saturday and Sunday.

Calls from mobiles may be charged depending on your network provider.

Remember that you may have to re-tune your digital box

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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18 March Mothering Sunday – 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying:

God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Kingsdown Organist

Errol Hui has served and delighted us as our regular organist for the last six years. However, because of increased responsibilities at work and other commitments, he feels that he can no longer maintain his duties at Kingsdown and, sadly, must step down. Errol will continue as our regular organist until the end of March. He does not, however, intend to leave us completely and will be happy to continue playing for us on a more occasional basis.

Our sincere thanks go to Errol for leading us in worship at the organ with his marvellous playing and for being a much appreciated part of our church family.

On a practical note, after the end of March, Errol will share the organ playing with Gerald Barton until the end of June, after which he will be happy to play roughly once each month. Gerald has offered to play up to twice a month - because of the focal dystonia affecting his hands he feels that is as much as he can offer. Until a new regular organist can be appointed, it will be necessary to find others to play on some Sundays. If you feel able to play the piano or, indeed, the organ for services on an occasional basis, or know someone who would, please speak to Roger Dunlop or Gerald Barton.



WHO CAN JUDGE?

Thomas Guy was a bookseller in London during the time of the Great Plague and the Great Fire in 1665/6. His business was very successful and he did well but people looked down on him because they thought he was mean. They saw him eating his lunch of dry bread in his shop, he wore worn out clothes and would only light one candle at a time. What people didn't know was that he lived in this way for a reason. When a new hospital was built at London Bridge they heard that it had been completely paid for by Thomas Guy. And on his death he left a huge sum of money as an endowment so that the hospital could continue to provide treatment for London's poor.

Even today Guy's Hospital is one of the most famous London teaching hospitals. Thomas Guy could have ignored the suffering all around him and eaten grand meals off fine china; instead he chose to eat dry bread wrapped in paper. So often we are wrong about people because we do not know all the facts.

JUMBLLED BIBLE BOOKS

Can you unscramble these letters to find books in the Bible?

1. e r e d m o n t y o u
2. a h a c e h i r z
3. a k m r
4. a e d i l n
5. b e e w r s h
6. c c e h i l n o r s
7. a e v e l i n o r t
8. e d g j s u
9. t e e p r
10. a l m p s s

**Doctor, Doctor my son has
swallowed my pen, what
should I do?**

Use a pencil 'till I get there.

**Doctor, doctor, I feel like a
dictionary.**

I'll have a word with you later.



**Doctor, doctor, I've been stung
by a bee. Shall I put some
ointment on it?**

Don't be silly - it must be miles
away by now.

Answers: 1.Deuteronomy 2.Zechariah
3.Mark 4.Daniel 5.Hebrews
6.Chronicles 7.Revelation 8.Judges
9.Peter 10.Psalms

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MARCH

- Mon 5 8 pm Guides (*and most Mondays throughout the month*)
- Tue 6 2 pm Kingsdown Club - The Brentham Ladies Choir
- Wed 7 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (*term time only*)
- Fri 9 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 (*and most Fridays throughout month*)
- Sat 10 10 am - 12.30 pm **Book Fair** - gifts & bric-a-brac. Admission 40p.
Proceeds to Ealing Soup Kitchen (Kingsdown's Charity of the Year)
- Tue 13 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 20 2 pm Kingsdown Club - My Tour on the Ocean Waves - a talk by
Janet Smith

EVENTS AT PITSHANGER

MARCH

- Thu 1 10-11.30 First Lent Course meeting at Pitshanger and every week until
March 29
- Wed 7 8 pm Wednesday Fellowship
- Sat 17 10.00am-12.00pm **Coffee morning for Action for Children**
We will have various stalls. Please come and support this worthwhile cause.

Prayer Group meets in the Vestry, 11.45 to 12.15, every Thursday. Please join us if you can. First Thursday in the month the Group has lunch together in Pitshanger Lane and anyone is welcome to join us even if you have not been to the Prayer Group meeting.



With Mothering Sunday and mothers in mind...

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love. J Von Goethe

Love is the master key to a happy home.

Empathy is your pain in my heart. H E Luccock

Love does not say, 'Give me', but 'Let me give you.'

A friend is one who comes in when the world goes out.

To the world you might be one person; but to one person you might be the world

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. Sophocles