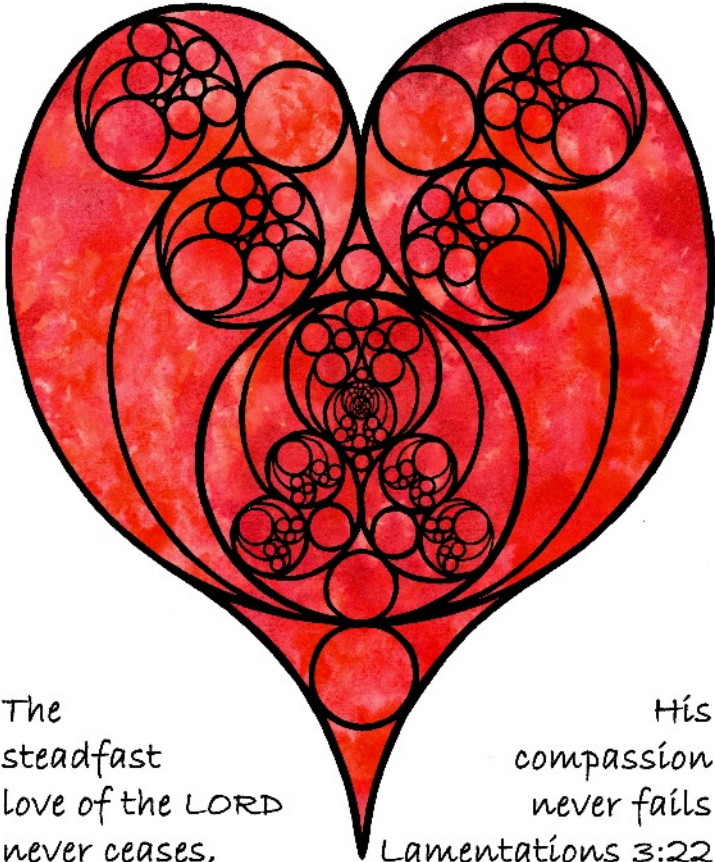




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



The
steadfast
love of the LORD
never ceases,

His
compassion
never fails
Lamentations 3:22

February 2018

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2018



- 4 Feb 10.30 Mrs Penny Pedley
- 11 Feb 10.30 Deacon Ramona Samuel,
Family Service
6.30 CIRCUIT SERVICE at Ealing Green
- 18 Feb 10.30 Rev Dr Calvin T Samuel, Holy Communion
- 25 Feb 10.30 Rev Karen Greenidge
- 4 Mar 10.30 Mrs Penny Pedley



Looking in all directions

LOOK UPwith wonder

LOOK BACKwith gratitude

LOOK AROUNDwith love

LOOK WITHINwith honesty

LOOK AHEADwith expectation.....

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2018 issue is Friday 23rd February 2018

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As we rapidly approach Ash Wednesday, I am aware that, in recent years, many suggestions for Lent activities have tended to be practical, focused on action, often aimed at heightening our awareness of human need and suggesting ways to help. Valuable as this is, sometimes I feel it is good to bring ourselves back to the roots of our faith and revisit the lenten call to 'self-examination and repentance... prayer, fasting... and reading and meditating on God's holy word' (from the introduction to the Common Worship service for Ash Wednesday). Words like repentance and fasting can seem harsh and negative to us today, but that doesn't necessarily mean that they are not still of value, though perhaps we wish they weren't! I'd like to share with you a poem by Ann Lewin.



Lent

Lent is a time to learn to travel
Light, to clear the clutter
From our crowded lives, and
Find a space, a desert.
Deserts are bleak: no creature
Comforts, only a vast expanse of
Stillness, sharpening awareness of
ourselves and God.

Uncomfortable places, deserts.

Most of the time we're tempted to
Avoid them, finding good reasons to
Live lives of ease; cushioned by
Noise from self-discovery,
Clutching at world's success
To stave off fear.
But if we dare to trust the silence
To strip away our false security,
God can begin to grow his wholeness in us,
Fill up our emptiness, destroy our fears,
Give us new vision, courage for the journey,
And make our desert blossom like a rose.

(From Watching for the kingfisher. Inspire 2004)

Deserts in the Bible are often places in which God meets with and forms his people. It can be hard to find deserts in our suburban, busy lives, surrounded as we are by bustle, noise and activity, and it is all too easy for our experiences of prayer and relationship with God to be rushed, squeezed into the demands of our lives. Lent gives us an opportunity to try to establish a different way, to find ways to make space in our lives for a deeper experience of God's love for and presence with us.

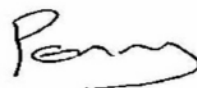
So this Lent I challenge and encourage you, if you don't already, to set aside a period of time each day for prayer and reading and to seek to know God better, and allow him to further grow his wholeness in you.

You may like to explore new ways of praying – there are many possibilities, including mobile apps, which can be very helpful and give new life to our prayer. I can suggest some different approaches, or resources to help, so do make contact if you would like to find out more.

It may mean choosing this time over something else - an extra half hour in bed, a TV programme, a game on the computer/tablet/ phone. But try it for Lent and I am sure you will find the blessings outweigh any sense of loss.

It may help, too, to agree with a Christian friend to encourage one another in this journey, to talk each week about how it is going and how it feels and what you may feel you have gained.

Prayer is the heart of our faith, a gift of God to meet him, to deepen our relationship with him and to empower our service of him. Yet I am very conscious of how easy it is for us to allow it to get crowded out, or to become rushed, or to lack any real sense of encounter with God. Sometimes we need to make a conscious effort to see ant
can give us that opportunity. Let's go for it!



**I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life;
instead He gave me life so that I may enjoy all things.**

Family News

There would not appear to be much to report apart from the absence of some of our members who have departed for distant climes - no doubt enjoying the sunshine!

Violet Cordon has sent us an email showing a picture of her enjoying her sister's orchid garden in Trinidad. Leela John has gone to Sri Lanka and Ivy headed for Jamaica. We hope you all return refreshed in body and spirit.

CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE taken by Deacon Ramona Samuel

This service was enlivened by Ramona getting members of the congregation to re-enact the story of the Nativity - providing suitably representative 'clothing' for the various characters. Well done to those valiant souls who volunteered to take part, some whom you may (or may not) be able to recognize! Thanks you Ramona for leading us in this way towards the rest of the day's celebrations.

Church Flowers

Ivy, who produces the wonderful flower arrangements in church each week, is now away for several weeks, so volunteers would be appreciated to take over during her absence.

Arena & Hall Kitchen Cleaning Day – Saturday 24th February

From 10am to about midday on Saturday 24th February members of the Property Committee are planning to do a thorough clean of the Arena and Hall Kitchen. Anyone else willing and able to help will be most welcome. Please ask Janet Smith for more information about what will be involved.

Audio Visual System

The church has a very good system for sound and projecting images and videos but, unfortunately, there are very few people who are confident to use it. As preachers increasingly like and expect to use this kind of facility, the Church Council would like to arrange for a group of people to be trained to use it, so that a rota can be arranged to offer that option. Initially the proposal is only to use the equipment for sermon illustrations and playing music. If you would be interested in helping with this, please speak to Penny or Sybil.

Circuit Lenten Practice

We will begin our Lenten Practice with a Circuit Service at Ealing Green on 11th February at 6.30pm. The service will be based around a contemplative reflection on the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19: 1-18.

This year's Lent course will be led by Rev Dr Calvin Samuel and will focus on 'Scriptural Holiness'. It will be held on Wednesdays at 7.30pm at Acton Hill and is intended to start on 14th February and run to 21st March.

We will conclude our Lenten Practice with a Circuit Service and meal on Maundy Thursday (29th March) at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The venue will be announced shortly.

We hope you will be able to join as much of our Lenten Practice as possible.

New Associate Pastor for King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi) Congregation

The Circuit is pleased to announce the appointment of Tasawer Samuel as the new Associate Pastor for the King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi) congregation. Tasawer will begin work at the start of February and will be formally welcomed on 4th February at the King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi) service at 2.00pm at Hambrough Primary School. All are welcome to join the King's Hall congregation at the service or to remember them in your prayers.



Charity of the Year

The final event for the Charity of the Year 2017/18 is a Book Fair on Saturday March 10th in aid of the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter. Donations of cakes, clothes and bric-a-brac for the stalls very welcome.



Many thanks, Olwen Britton.

Junior Mission for All

As there is currently no representative at Kingsdown for JMA the Mission and Outreach Committee has decided to call in any Adult or Children's boxes in the congregation. Please can you hand them to me as soon as possible. I will forward the total to JMA and inform individual donors of the amounts in their boxes.



You are of course welcome to support JMA by cheque or online if you so wish.

Many thanks, Olwen Britton.

BEETLE DRIVE- 3RD MARCH



IF YOU FANCY AN EVENING OUT WITH FRIENDS THEN COME TO THE BEETLE DRIVE TO BE HELD AT KINGSDOWN CHURCH.

THE EVENING WILL COMMENCE AT 7 P.M.

ADMISSION FREE

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DONATE.

CAKE, TEA/COFFEE INCLUDED.

THIS WILL BE A FUN EVENING AND A GOOD START TO OUR SEASON OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. THE NEXT ONE BEING 16TH JUNE, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT. (NOT REALLY SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10 YRS OF AGE.)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, AND IN ORDER TO GET AN IDEA OF NUMBERS PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME BEFORE THE 3RD MARCH. THIS IS PURELY TO KNOW HOW MANY TABLES WE NEED TO HAVE.

WE HAVEN'T HAD A GET TOGETHER FOR MANY MONTHS, SO LETS START ON 3RD MARCH, WITH THIS SOCIAL EVENT.

JANET SMITH



JCASELYSMITH@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: VIOLET CORDON; BRENDA GLASSMAN; BLOSSOM JACKSON; JANET SMITH; PAM SMITH





Tower Building

Our BB Anchor Boys recently had a professional lesson in tower building from BB Old Boy Mr David Tebutt.

Many Kingsdowner's will remember David (and his brother Keith) from their time in the company during the 1970s and 1980s.

David has kept in touch ever since and, following the BB 50th anniversary service, brought his own son along to join 10th Ealing and also signed up as an occasional helper himself.

David has worked in the building trade all his life and put his skills to good use with the Anchors. Last week's class in tower building was very, very successful -- as you can see from the photographs -- and the Boys were thrilled.

Tony Plews



From the Church Council

The last meeting of the Church Council took place on 6th December and was attended by 9 members of the Council.

At the time of the meeting the second round of stationing to find a new minister for Kingsdown and Ealing Green was still in progress. Since then, as readers will be aware, Rev Susan Male has agreed to take up the appointment and will join us at Kingsdown from 1st September this year.

Most of the meeting was taken up by ‘business’ matters, some more technical than others. Taking the really technical item first, the meeting passed a ‘section 333 resolution’, so called because it relates to section 333 of the Charities Act 2011. This allows any two of a group of four named members of the Council to sign leases and contracts in the name of the church. We need to renew leases on the church flat and Russell Room during the course of the year and this resolution will simplify the signing of the new leases.

The Council adopted a more complete policy on property maintenance and repair building on the requirement that all property matters must go through Property

Committee and, if necessary to Church Council for approval. In short the policy:

- a) Asserts the primacy of Church Council in determining and approving property work
- b) Notes that Council delegates property matters to the Property Committee
- c) Reiterates the delegation to the Property Steward on items of maintenance up to £300 per item.
- d) Includes a provision for emergency maintenance.
- e) Authorises the Property Steward to delegate action to other persons acting under direction.

If anyone would like a copy of the full policy, please speak to Gerald Barton.

The major immediate property concern is the need to replace the flat roof over the hall. This was repaired a couple of years ago and is now in need of complete renewal. Estimates have been obtained and will be discussed at the next Property Committee prior to seeking approval from Church Council. The work will be expensive and could cost in the region of £50 – 70,000.

Several companies have been approached regarding the lighting in the worship area although it has proved difficult to get responses. Efforts are ongoing.

A fire risk assessment and revised emergency evacuation plan have been completed and will be put to Property Committee before presentation to Church Council. The revised evacuation plan will then be publicised prior to organising a fire drill sometime during the course of the year. When it happens, please take it seriously!

On safeguarding, Sybil Corbin, our Safeguarding Officer ran a first set of training sessions in November. Further sessions are to be organised during the early part of this year.

As you will know, the annual Christmas Northfields Traders' event was cancelled. We have participated in these events by having the church open and providing children's activities. Despite the cancellation it was decided that we would have the church open on two Saturday mornings at the same time as the

regular coffee mornings for people to view the Festival of Nativities and also have some activities for children. This was also supported by Deacon Ramona Samuel who came along to help with the children's activities. The number of people who visited was modest, but worthwhile nonetheless.

Blossom Jackson asked the Council to consider the question of training in the use of the AV system. The system is currently under-used and she felt this was because too few people at Kingsdown felt sufficiently competent to use the system. It was agreed that Penny Pedley would put out a notice requesting expressions of interest in learning how to use the system. The priority would be to establish a group of people able to use the system including how to project preachers' files using either their laptops or the system laptop.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be on Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Gerald Barton
Church Council Secretary

The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

Strength and Balance Classes

Under the Stay Active 4 Life campaign there will be classes starting in **Kingsdown Church Hall** every Monday and Friday from 1.30 - 2.30 pm.



Classes start on Monday 5th February and Friday 9th February.

These classes are particularly aimed at older people but all are welcome to attend. You don't need a referral to sign up and you can bring a friend or family member. The courses will be on-going but will be free for the first 10 sessions and participants can attend either Monday or Friday or both.

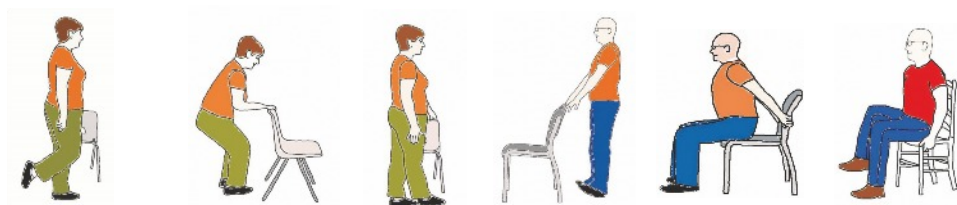
These very popular classes are led by a trained fitness instructor and intended to

- Build strength and flexibility
- Improve balance and co-ordination
- Improve mobility and posture
- Reduce risk of falls and injury.

Classes also take place at other venues in Ealing - Hanwell, Northolt, Greenford and Pitshanger.

If you are interested please turn up on the day or, for more information, contact:

Aran Summers, StayActive4Life
admin@stayactive4life.co.uk
or tel: 020 8574 7785 or 07715 170207



Editorial Comment:

The Editors have been attending these course for some time finding them beneficial and would encourage our 'mature' readers give them a try.

Keep it Simple Lent study material



Methodist
relief and
development

Keep it Simple is a six week (40) day resource of reflections, activities and prayers.

It can be followed daily by individuals or used weekly in small groups. There are also other materials (including films, prayers and a talk) available to be used in a church service to help the whole congregation engage and be inspired.



AWC are delighted to have contributions from Rev Loraine Mellor (the President of Methodist Conference), Rt Rev Paul Butler (the Bishop of Durham), Louise Davies (Director of Christians on the Left), Helen Jaeger (Internationally published author), Rhys Stephenson (CBBC Presenter) and many more.

This engaging resource takes inspiration from the Beatitudes and the theme of simplicity. Inspiring you, with others, to discover the pleasure of living simply and join in solidarity with your global neighbours.

Copies can be ordered on-line :

<http://allwecan.org.uk/resources/service-materials/keep-it-simple/>

additional resources including CD-ROM are available

Alan Smith has a sample booklet if you would like to see one.

This is the worst disease

(These words are attributed to Mother Teresa)

I have come more and more to realise that being unwanted is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience. Nowadays we have found medicine for leprosy, and lepers can be cured. There's medicine for tuberculosis and consumption can be cured. but for the unwanted, except there are willing hands to serve and there is a loving heart to love, I don't think this terrible disease can be cured.



Conference 2018

Change happens when we all work together

On Saturday 20 January 2018, 200 people gathered together at William Booth College in London for a day of inspiration, challenge and action with All We Can.

Together, they asked the question, 'What role can we play in tackling global injustice and poverty'?



“The Church is here to give a voice to the voiceless” – Clever Tabaziba, National Director for one of All We Can’s partners in Zimbabwe MeDRA.

Photo: Clever Tabaziba from Zimbabwe, All We Can’s Director of Programmes Angela Zamaere, Vice-President of Methodist Conference Jill Baker and President of Methodist Conference Revd Loraine Mellor shared from their own experiences of All We Can’s work around the world.

Conference 2018



Zimbabwean Methodist Fellowship
Choir - singing at Conference.

An interesting day with a range of presentations all targeted at making the attendees:

- Think more about poverty, and how should we respond,
- God's heart for justice
- How we should be making a difference together.

The day included uplifting music from Geraldine and Carey Luce and the Zimbabwean Methodist Fellowship choir.

Meeting others from across the UK, -some of whom had started out at 5.00 am- to get there, was an opportunity to learn how they were working together to make change.

Change

HAPPENS

WHEN WE

ALL WORK

together

All We Can stand's together with people suffering from the injustice of poverty.

We pledge to do all we can to ensure our global neighbours fulfil their God given potential as we pray and act for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS



We believe in Life before Death

WILL YOU WALK WITH DIMMA THIS LENT?

At our London Team Annual Supporters Event on Thursday, 25 January, we shall hear about Christian Aid 2018, and this year Christian Aid will focus on DISPLACED PEOPLE.

Last year REFUGEES (65 million people worldwide), and this year 40 million people internally displaced. They have been forced to flee their homes but, unlike refugees, they remain in their own country, with no guarantee of protection. And, although the internally displaced make up the majority of people leaving their homes to find safety, they are often ignored by the international community.

Forced into the wilderness

When Boko Hanam took over Ibrahim's community, he knew he had to escape. He fled under cover of darkness, knowing that if he was caught he would be killed. Ibrahim's wife, Nana, followed him with their children on the family's donkey. On the road, insurgents took the donkey, so they all had to walk for three days to reach safety.

Reunited in a camp, life has not got much easier for Ibrahim and his family, He has built a small shelter for them and survives by collecting and selling firewood.

There are so many more stories like Ibrahim's in NIGERIA and WORLDWIDE. And violence is not the only reason our sisters and brothers are forced from their homes.

DIMMA and her family abandoned their home in NORTHERN KENYA after drought left them desperate for water.

JOURNEY INTO THE WILDERNESS WITH IBRAHIM AND DIMMA

This Lent, walk alongside the world's 40 million displaced people through our COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS CALENDAR. Christian Aid refuses to ignore any of God's children. We are responding to the needs of internally displaced people worldwide with life-saving food, clean water and

sanitation facilities. But we need to go much further. This is why we are calling for the UN to ensure they receive a fair deal and are no longer forgotten.

Will you meet Dimma and walk with her this Lent? Copies of the 'Count your Blessings' are now available; please let me know if you want one. Lent starts this year on 14 February (Ash Wednesday) and, as we follow Jesus' journey this Lent, let's confront the wilderness in our own world. Let's walk with our neighbours - like Dimma and Ibrahim - who have been forced to leave their homes. We shall reflect on the blessings in our lives and see how our support gives people hope.

Ruby Warne

BOOK FAIRS

Kingsdown's next Book Fair will be held on Saturday, 10 March, and is in aid of Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter.

We need BOOKS - especially novels - PAPERBACKS ONLY. Also needed are CHILDREN'S BOOKS and TRAVEL BOOKS (up to date ones please).

For a long time we have used one table, near the entrance for books 'received since the last Book Fair' but, because we haven't received any 'new' books recently this has been missed by our regular customers!

If you are able to help in this way, please bring your books along on the Friday night before the fair - after 9 pm - or, on the day from 8.30 am.

Many thanks.

Ruby Warne

THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Thank you for socks - stamps - and specs - received during the past two months. ALL are needed and your help is appreciated.

Ruby Warne

*Refuse to be discouraged when storm clouds come your way,
But trust that in tomorrow you'll find a brighter day.
Refuse to be discouraged when you're faced with doubts and fears,
but keep on pressing onward for the joy beyond the tears.
Refuse to be discouraged, and in time you'll understand
that if you keep believing things will work out just as planned*

Amanda Bradley

(submitted by Janet Smith)

A more accurate New Testament

Bible scholars have claimed that they have used early Greek manuscripts to create a more accurate version of the New Testament. The new edition, which was printed in its original Greek, was published recently by researchers from Tyndale House, a bible research institute in Cambridge.



Dr Dirk Jongkind, vice-principal of the institute, explained in a press release the motive behind the new publication. He said: "The scribes who copied the texts that have become our earliest known manuscripts of the New Testament were only human, and inevitably they made small mistakes. The great thing is that now we have so much evidence at our fingertips, we can study the types of errors the New Testament scribes made and come to more informed conclusions about what the text being copied would have said."



KINGSDOWN CLUB

PROGRAMME for FEBRUARY to APRIL 2018

Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend.

Transport is available for anyone who should need it. Please contact Eileen Tobias - 0208 567 4205 for details.

FEBRUARY 6th

DAVE ENTERTAINS

FEBRUARY 20th

A TALK by MRS PENNY PEDLEY

MARCH 6th

GRAHAM JENKINS ENTERTAINS

MARCH 20th

LYNDA SILK SINGS and PLAYS for us

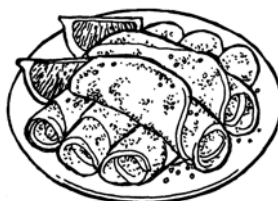
APRIL 3rd

A TALK by JANET SMITH

APRIL 17th

AGM and BINGO AFTERNOON

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS ON 1st MAY 2018



Helping local people in crisis

What an amazing year it has been for Ealing Foodbank. As we spend time reflecting on the last year, we have been in awe of how Ealing Foodbank has helped our community. We would like to thank our volunteers and donors for their tremendous contributions last year - we couldn't have done it without you. - **Janet, Administrator of Ealing Foodbank.**

- We had **8.7 tonnes** of food donated in a period of 8 weeks during the Harvest season.
- We have done various talks in schools, local churches and evening meetings.
- To accommodate our growth, we have moved house! Earlier this year, we moved our office and warehouse to St. Mellitus Hall in Hanwell and we had a grand opening in March. It's much bigger and we now have a larger warehouse to store and distribute food to our cafes.
- Over the next few months, we will be introducing the Foodbank team to you, starting with our admin department.

We spoke to a few volunteers last year about what the help meant to those who came. Here is what one of the volunteers said:

"We recently had a client who came into our cafe. She had been made redundant after working for 25 years. There were delays in her benefits and she was embarrassed and devastated to find herself coming to the foodbank for support. The food we gave her helped her to bridge the gap until the benefits came through. She was grateful and, when she was back on her feet, said she "would want to volunteer with a foodbank."



A Scottish blessing

May the blessing of light be on you – light without and light within,
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that the stranger and friend may come and warm themselves at it.
And may the light shine out of the two eyes of you
like a candle set in the window of a house bidding the wanderer
come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you.

May it beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines and
sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet
as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired
at the end of day.

And may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.

May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it
quickly,

up and off and on its way to God.

And now may the Lord bless you and bless you kindly.

Amen.

The best gifts you can give:

- To your enemy, forgiveness;
- to an opponent, tolerance;
- to a friend, your heart;
- to a customer, service;
- to every person, love;
- to every child, a good example; and finally,
- to yourself, respect.

Bible Studies

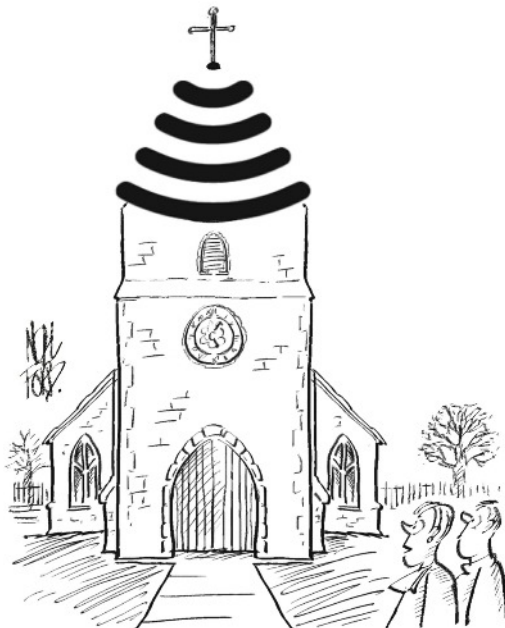


The Social Responsibility Commission and Authorised Ministries Commission of the London District of the Methodist Church have created a Bible Study Course based on Migration Stories from the bible, so that we might better understand the challenges faced by migrants. This resources is also to ensure that the lessons that can be learned from biblical Moving Stories are outlined, so that we as a church might become better examples of an inclusive and respectful community.

Each session includes a Thought from Wesley, a passage of scripture, a theological discussion and some probing discussion questions. The course may be done in small groups, or be used as the foundation of a service with a larger congregation, at any point in the year (for example, Lent).

All downloadable in PDF Format from:

<https://www.movingstorieslondon.com/biblestudies>



**“Looks like they’ve introduced
contactless payments for their collections”**

Prayer for strength

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank you for the example Jesus gave us when He was in the wilderness – the desert where He was tempted by the enemy of all that is good.

Lord when we are tempted to give in to temptation, whatever form it may take, help us to remember that Jesus was tempted too, in the same ways that we are. But He looked to you for help and strength; He looked to your word and trustworthiness.

Help us to know your help and strength too. Help us to resist temptations by trusting you through Jesus.

Help us to be good examples to others who may be struggling with life issues and to lead them also to you. Lord, please help us, as only you can. We ask in Jesus name, **Amen.**

By **Daphne Kitching**

The Ten Commandments

This rhyming version of the Ten Commandments, published, it is thought, by Isaac Watts in 1709, was still going strong some years ago.

Thou shalt have no gods but Me.
Before no idol bow thy knee.
Take not the name of God in vain,
Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.
Give both thy parents honour due,
Take heed that thou no murder do.
Abstain from words and deeds unclean,
Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean.
Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it,
What is thy neighbour's, do not covet.

You, Robot!

You gaze with an unblinking eye
And, as you gaze, I wonder why
We've reached a point where we must settle
For colleagues who are made of metal?

For you, who are completely wired
You are not lazy, don't get tired.
You don't drink coffee, or eat cake
You never need a 'natural break.'

You never fail at any task
You do whatever you are asked
You're never found just sitting snoring
But, for all that, you are so BORING!

What happened to those humans who
Would make me smile when I was blue?
Or, stood around the old decanter
Would cheer me with chat and banter?

I know, before you burst my bubble
My human colleagues caused me trouble
I know they used to grouse and groan
Late for work and early home.

But they had that human 'thing'
That quality that made me sing,
Compassion of the human heart –
That's what set my friends apart!

I know you won't take it amiss
If I sit and reminisce -
If I could have my selfish way
I'd have them back, this very day!

by **Nigel Beeton**

The Collect for Ash Wednesday (14 February) is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

14 February - Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.



The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

Tomorrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.

The Vicar's a Poet

On 27th February the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn 'Let all the world/ In every corner sing', which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire.

He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he graduated he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the 'King James Bible') he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry.

Windows

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning: 'Windows frozen, won't open.'

He texted back: 'Gently pour some lukewarm water over it.'

She replied five minutes later: 'Computer really screwed up now.'

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- Mon 5 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout term time)
Tue 6 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Dave Entertains
Wed 7 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (term time only)
Thu 8 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
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 (term time
only)
Sat 10 10.15 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
Tue 13 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
Tue 20 2.00 pm Tuesday Club - A Talk by Mrs Penny Pedley
Wed 21 7.30 pm Mission and Outreach Committee
Sat 24 10 am Arena and Hall Cleaning Day - all helpers welcome

Future Dates for your Diary

MARCH

- Sat 3 10.30 am Ealing Animal Charities Fair at Hanwell
7pm Beetle Drive - Kingsdown Church Hall - FREE with retiring
collection - refreshments - do join us for a fun evening
Tue 6 7.30 pm Church Council
Wed 18 8 pm Property Committee
Thu 22 8.30 pm Finance Committee

Deep peace of the running wave to you;

Deep peace of the flowing air to you;

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;

Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you;

(A Celtic Benediction used by Mary Newman in 'Remember in Winter')

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