



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



December 2013 - January 2014

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER



- 8 Dec 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe,
Family/Parade Service/Gift Service
5.00-6.30 Advent Bible Study 2 of 3 - Rev Suva Catford
- 15 Dec 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe, Nativity Play
5.00-6.30 Advent Bible Study 3 of 3 - Rev Jen Smith
- 22 Dec 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford
6.30 Rev Chrissie Howe, Carol Service

Christmas Eve

- from 5pm Carols in the Avenue
11.30 Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10.30 Family Worship

- 29 Dec 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith, Holy Communion

JANUARY

- 5 Jan 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe, Covenant Service
Holy Communion
- 12 Jan 10.30 Mr Mark Budu-Manuel
- 19 Jan 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe
- 26 Jan 10.30 Mr Donny Samuel
6.00 **CIRCUIT SERVICE at Greenford**





Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Advent which lasts until Christmas Eve. Advent is a time of preparation, an anticipation of our hearts, as we remember God's promise of the Messiah who is the hope and reality of salvation for all creation. Advent is also a time of expectant hope, when we look to the future and the past in order to focus on the present. God's reign is in our midst!

The Advent wreath was probably first used as a Christian devotion in the Middle Ages and the design was taken from the customs of pre-Christian people, where the candles and greenery represented light and life during the darkness of winter. For Christians the candles symbolize the light of Christ coming into the world and the evergreen symbolizes renewal in Christ. The circular shape symbolizes the completeness of God and God's never-ending love. So the advent wreath is a reminder of God's promise and gift of salvation to all. The other four candles traditionally have two meanings. The candle for the first Sunday of advent is hope and the patriarchs, the second candle for peace and the prophets, the third candle for joy and John the Baptist, the final candle in Advent is for love and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The symbolism of the advent wreath enables individuals and communities to meditate on God's promises through Scripture and prayer so to grow stronger in faith. This Advent may the good news of Christ permeate your life and renew your relationship with God. As we travel together through Advent may we pray for all those who need God's hope, peace, joy and love. May we also give thanks to God for those whose lives have radiated God's love, grace and mercy to us and our world. And as we pray for individuals we know and for situations throughout the world may we be prepared to be the answer to our prayers.

Through the Advent season, during the festivities of Christmas, and into the New Year may you grow in your Christian discipleship as you draw near to God.

Love and prayers,

Chrissie



KINGSDOWN FAMILY NEWS

Please continue to remember in your prayers all those in our church family who are unwell at this time: particularly **Violet Cordon** (not making the progress she would like following her operation); and also **Pearl Pike** (who is slowly on the mend following a fall) as well as **Graham** who is currently 'in charge'.

Violet has sent the following message: "May I take the opportunity to thank all my Kingsdown friends, present and those who have now moved further a field, for their love and concern shown towards me in so many ways. I am grateful for this support which has uplifted me during this time full of anxiety and worry. May God bless you All and I wish you a very merry and peaceful Christmas."

Kind Regards."

Violet Cordon

As the Kingsdown family are already aware, the **Rev Chrissie Howe** has requested and received permission to curtail her current appointment at the end of this Connexional year, and will leave our Circuit in August 2014. (For family reasons Chrissie needs to relocate to the Northwest of England.) The Circuit will now enter the stationing process to seek a new minister. Please give Chrissie your support and best wishes as she continues her ministry within the Circuit.

As reported in the latest edition of 'In-touch', at the Circuit Meeting held on 11 September, its members approved the nomination of **Blossom Jackson** as a Circuit Steward. We give thanks to Blossom for agreeing to take on this task and offer support and prayers for her in this new role.

The Circuit meeting also voted unanimously to invite the **Rev Dr Jennifer Smith** to continue as a Circuit Minister and Superintendent for a further two years from September 2014, and will be with the Circuit until August 2016.

A message has been received from his daughter, Hazel Cox, telling us that the **Rev Jack Roberts** is moving home for additional care. Many will have kind memories of Jack as a previous Minister here at Kingsdown and will no doubt wish to remember him in their prayers.

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30th November saw a busy Church hall with stalls selling cakes, books, cards, dolls, games and lots more, all in aid of Kingsdown - what a success - **£1,200** was raised. Well done to **Janet Smith** and **June Thompson** for organization *par excellence* and to all the other willing helpers (too numerous to mention individually) who made it possible.

The bouncy castle in the car park was a big attraction, as well as Father Christmas and his trusty 'elf', so well done to all those doing their bit outside braving the cold.

Our customers were also invited to view the nativity displays and listen to live music in the church itself. What more could one ask for! A big THANK YOU to all for such a superb effort.



BB in more competitions

- from their newsletter we see that the 10th Ealing will be at the INTER-SQUAD DRILL COMPETITION on Friday 13th December when the two Company Section Drill Squads will go head-to-head at Kingsdown as our previous Captain and Drill Master, Mr David Lewis, stands as judge between them.



They'll be competing for the Joe Yates Shield. Mr Yates was the first Captain of 10th Ealing (he passed away in 1976 after 10 years' loyal service) and was a great advocate of BB Drill. It'll be a tense and exciting 20-minute event: may the best team win!

THE BB BAND COMPETITION 2014

The information and music for this session's London Band Competition has been received.

As you may know, the 10th Ealing have enjoyed a tremendous run of late (three competitions – four trophies) and it is their intention to enter a Band in March 2014. As always, this means lots of hard work and dedication from the Boys. Let's go to work, Boys!!

Good Luck and Best Wishes from the Kingsdown family. Ed

From the Church Council

There was an extraordinary meeting of the Church Council after morning service on Sunday 24th November.

Firstly, Sybil Corbin was nominated for, and appointed to the role of Safeguarding Officer for Kingsdown.

On property matters, the meeting agreed that some essential work identified by the recent Quinquennial Report should go ahead. This covered replacement of the old cast iron guttering and downpipes on the south side of the church and painting of fascias and soffits.

Quotations are also being obtained to fix the loose ceiling tiles in the worship area, and also for the repair of the damaged wall at the entrance to the car park. The cost of this latter will be covered by insurance.

The Property Committee has considered what should be done about the lift to the Dome Room and Classroom 3. At the moment an 'out of order' notice has been put on the lift door and the power has been switched off. The lift has a minor electrical fault which can be rectified when required. However, it currently has no alarm, and, equally it is not clear where an alarm would sound if one were fitted. As we are not making use of the upstairs rooms at present, the Property Committee does not consider the lift to be a priority and repair work has been put 'on hold'.

The Council considered proposals for the use of the 'Talent' money given to each church by the Circuit. As you may recall, the Circuit has given each church a gift of £5,000 to use on some 'mission-related' activity. Supporting the Ealing Foodbank was suggested, but it is not immediately clear how we might get involved. This idea was dropped, although the Council felt that we should look at other ways of supporting the Foodbank, eg as a future Charity of the Year.

Two other suggestions were considered and accepted. Firstly, ChurchCheck which is a service which assesses all aspects of a church as seen through the eyes of a newcomer. A 'mystery worshipper' would come to the church and assess not just how welcoming our church feels, but all other aspects of the church as well and what overall impression we make.

Whilst Kingsdown is generally felt to be a 'welcoming' church, it would be complacent to think that all aspects of how we appear to newcomers are as good as they could be. Engaging ChurchCheck to carry out an assessment will help highlight those areas where we aren't as good as we could be. Importantly, this could highlight some aspects that we are not fully aware of. The cost of this will be £108 including VAT and would be arranged for some time during the New Year.

The second is for a day retreat next March/April. Following the completion of the redevelopment project, and also reflecting the changes in ministers we have, and are undergoing, we need, as a church to re-orientate ourselves in order to chart our way forward.

As a step towards this, we should spend some time going back to basics and think about what our church means to us, how we see ourselves in relation to it, how we see it in relation to the Circuit, and how we see it relation to the wider community. Ideally, the day retreat will be arranged 'off-site' where we can be free of distractions during the day. This proposal will now be worked up more fully, so watch this space for more details in the new year.

Finally, King's Hall Methodist Church (English-speaking congregation) have taken the difficult decision to become a 'Class Meeting'. They will, however

continue to hold Sunday worship services at Hanwell Methodist Church at 9.30am, as they have been doing for several months, and Rev Chrissie Howe will continue to have pastoral charge. As a Class Meeting, King's Hall (English-speaking congregation) will have no Church Council and will not have property or finance responsibilities.

As Rev Chrissie Howe will remain in pastoral charge, King's Hall (English-speaking congregation) has asked Kingsdown Church Council to consider acting as the 'Local Church' on their behalf, something which is in line with Methodist practice. The Council decided to agree to this request and the change to a Class Meeting associated with Kingsdown will now go forward Circuit Meeting and London District Synod who will vote on endorsing the change.

**Gerald Barton, Secretary to
Church Council**

Carol Singing for Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

You are invited to participate in carol singing at local underground stations to raise funds for the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter.

The sessions are 5:30 - 6:30pm and 6:30 - 7:30pm on Thursday 12 December at Ealing Broadway and Wednesday 18 December at Acton Town.

If you'd like to join in any of these, please contact

**Alison Wood, ECWNS Project Co-Ordinator
on 07930 378263 or office@ecwns.org.uk
so she can send you further details.**



APPEALS

Methodist Homes for the Aged

Following our book fair and envelope appeal in November I am pleased to report that the book fair raised £362.17p and the appeal £188.31p, making a grand total of £550 48p. Seven envelopes with a total of £118 were Gift Aided. Many thanks to anyone who helped in any way.

Typhoon Haiyan Joint DEC/MRDF Appeal

I am very pleased to report that the above appeal from two retiring collections raised £276.50p to send for relief work after the Philippines typhoon. Many thanks to all who supported this appeal.

Olwen Britton

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA

If William Hague is serious about preventing sexual violence, if his Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative is to mean anything at all, then he must apply it to Sri Lanka - not simply heap rewards on the Government whose army is committing these offences.

We are today launching a campaign to ask William Hague to stand up for what he believes in - to deploy his team of experts to Sri Lanka.

Many Tamil men and women have been raped by Sri Lankan Security forces. Many multiple times. Many as recently as a few months ago. In all probability many are suffering this ordeal right now. This is an outrage and it must stop.

We have set up a form so that you can send a message to William Hague with just a few clicks. If enough of us do it in the next few days, he will have to act - or else his hypocrisy will cause major embarrassment.

So please help us by sending a message to William Hague.

<http://www.srilankacampaign.org/takeaction.htm>

Kind regards,

The Sri Lanka Campaign
Submitted by Shantini Chase

Thanks to all those who contributed gifts of tools and other items to WORKAID at the Harvest Festival service in October. We were able to deliver a full car load to their workshops in Chesham. In addition your generous financial donations totalled over £200.

When we visited we were shown around the WORKAID premises and were very impressed by the work that goes on there. The tasks of refurbishing, repairing, sorting and packing of tools is all done by volunteers. We found that they also provide work experience placements, to assist young people into employment and occupational therapy for some recovering patients from Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

A reminder of what WORKAID needs -

carpentry, plumbing, electrical, building, blacksmithing, welding, lathes, motor mechanic tools, manual and electric sewing machines, knitting machines, leather working, upholstering, haberdashery, wools and yarns, sturdy adult bicycles, horticultural tools, typewriters and many other items.

There is a box in the Church Foyer for any further items that you would like to donate. There will also be a further opportunity to give to WORKAID over the Christmas period. So please continue to look out for items.

Perhaps you could widen the search for unwanted tools by asking family, friends and neighbours to see if they can find any.

For further information or if you require bulky items collected, please contact us on 0208 567 2668

Steve and Liz Palmer



Living and Dying Well Series at Ealing Green

The topic for the next session of the Living and Dying Well Series at Ealing Green, on Wednesday 11th December, will be **Enjoying Retirement**.

Sessions take place at 2.00pm to 3.30pm and are repeated at 8.00pm to 9.30pm.

Extract from MWIB December 2013 News Letter



A major event was the autumn meeting of the MWiB Connexional Forum, which took place on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in Derbyshire.

We welcomed seven new district representatives, as their predecessors stepped down, after completing their initial 2-year terms. The system of having reserves to Forum representatives in place proved vital again as, with 3 reserves attending, there was participation from every District.

As a reservist, I was privileged to attend this two Day meeting, instead of Rev. Femi Cole- Njie - former President. In September 2014, when Femi completes her 3 year term of office, I have been elected to be the London District representative on the Forum, which is the policy making body for MWiB.

A new social action campaign with the working title of "Dementia-friendly churches" was agreed, to run alongside our work on Dalit Solidarity project.

A better understanding and acceptance of people living with dementia is a cause close to the current President, Linda Crossley's heart, after having experience of seeing and caring for her mother, who had the condition, through the latter years of her life.

At Forum, new Task Groups were approved to begin work on this campaign, as well as the heritage of the women's movement in British Methodism.

Blossom Jackson



Philippines Typhoon Emergency Appeal

Thank you very much for your donation of £268.50 (*from the Retiring Collection and additional dedicated donations*) for the Philippines Typhoon Emergency appeal that you sent on behalf of Kingsdown Methodist Church. We are very grateful for your support. Please express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to these donations.



We are responding to the emergency through our partners in the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), the global network of churches and related relief organisations, who are working hard to provide urgent humanitarian assistance. We have sent the funds raised so far by MRDF supporters to ACT Alliance partner the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and we will continue to support them as they respond on the ground. UMCOR staff and volunteers are providing emergency food, water, and water purification tablets to 7,500 people in Tacloban City, Leyte Province, which was devastated by the typhoon.

UMCOR volunteers in Manila are also working hard to create family survival packs from locally procured food. Each pack costs £31 to produce but will provide a family of five in the affected area with emergency food for around five days.

Claire Welch Churches Co-ordinator MRDF

New Year Prayer of Trust

Father of all time,

We release to you the old year, the year that has passed, with all the celebrations and all the crises; with all the things we did and organised and enjoyed - with all the things we couldn't do or control, the things that caused us sadness or pain. We release them to you.

As another year begins Lord, help us to start by putting our trust in Jesus, right here in the newness of January. Thank you that he died to close the gap between us and you. Help us to renew our trust daily, so that when difficult days come, dark days when we can't understand why, or see the way forward, we will know his presence and strength to carry on. May his Holy Spirit, guide us; may he fill us with expectation and courage and confidence to know that we are your children; that you will love us not only right through this year, but always.

So thank you Lord, for the gift of this New Year, but most of all we thank you every day for Jesus who makes the difference. Amen



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

1. RICHMOND PARK SPONSORED WALK

Our congratulations and thanks to Ivy Hanson who completed the walk around Richmond Park and in doing so raised the sum of £426.00. A wonderful achievement and many thanks to all who sponsored Ivy.

2. THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2014

The annual Supporters Day will be held on 30 January. The afternoon session will be from 2-4.30 pm, and evening session from 6-8.30pm. I hope to attend the afternoon session as usual. This is always an enjoyable event when we have the opportunity to meet Christian Aid Supporters from the London Area. It is for everyone who is interested in the work of Christian Aid and the plans for **Christian Aid Week for 2014, 11-17 MAY 2014**. As usual, we shall meet at Christian Aid HQ, Lower Marsh, near Waterloo Station.

You will find reminders of Supporters Day in the Church News sheet during January.

3. PRESENT AID 2014/14 CATALOGUE

This year's essential Christmas gifts

Forget toys, games and gadgets. This year's essential gifts could save and change lives in the world's poorest communities.....

In this Catalogue - and at presentaid.org - you'll find CA's best selection of gifts yet. Because alongside the ever popular goats, cows and chickens, CA has introduced some brand new essentials - such as high-nutrition food supplements for malnourished children, and basic cooking utensils for families fleeing violence in places like Syria. As always, there's something for every taste and budget, from Small stocking fillers, eg mosquito nets (£15), food supplements (£6), torch and radio emergency kit (£7), chicken (£9), warm blankets for refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria (£13); to Essentials for children, eg send a child to school (£71) for one year, a child's school materials (£8) for one year, a mobile doctor £54; Essentials for families, eg a floating vegetable garden (£18), a beehive (£43), hand tools (£10), a herd of goats (£76) or a ibe giat (£19).

It's so simple to shop with Present Aid:

1. Choose a gift for a friend or relative
2. CA will send you a gift card for the lucky recipient and
3. Your gift transforms lives in the world's poorest countries.

You will find a copy of this booklet on the notice board in the Church Foyer/
If you require a personal copy, please let me know.

Ruby Warne

BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Please do remember to save these items:

POSTAGE STAMPS - SPECS - SOCKS AND WARM SCARVES - MOBILE
PHONES AND INK JETS.

Thank you.

Ruby Warne



MRDF Extraordinary Gift catalogues are now available in the Foyer
or call Pam or Alan (020 8840 4803) if you want your own copy.

The Gifts range from £8 to £205 and cover a wide range of activities.

Go to

**<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/give/extraordinary-gifts>
to place an order direct.**

THE TRUTH AND LIES ABOUT GLOBAL POVERTY cont

MRDF challenges five myths surrounding global poverty and celebrates the work of partners providing practical solutions for poor communities around the world.

Myth 1: 'They won't help themselves'

Myth 2: 'They are poor because they have too many children'

Myth 3: 'They are all corrupt'

Myth 4: 'Only the poorest countries need aid'

Myth 5: 'The poor will always be with us'

A truth: 'We can all make a difference'

Continuing from the last issue which covered Myths 1 and 2

Myth 3: 'They are all corrupt'

It is true that poor communities are often hit hardest by corruption. It thrives in conditions where there is weak governance, economic hardship and low literacy levels. Corruption can have a devastating impact on poor communities, as basic public or government services that they depend on fail or cease to effectively function, people are forced to spend their limited income on bribes, and existing inequalities in access to services are reinforced.

However, corruption is a global problem, and doesn't just affect those living in developing nations. Transparency International's *Corruption Perceptions Index* ranks some African nations, including Botswana and Rwanda, above some European countries in terms of levels of perceived corruption in the public sector. Most importantly, no country listed in the index has a perfect score.

It is also important to note that corruption in poor countries can often be linked to the behaviour of western companies. Activities such as tax dodging also rob developing countries of billions of dollars in revenue that could be used for development of public services.

Aid is less prone to corruption than business activities, as many donors including the UK's Department for International Development (which currently

funds two MRDF projects) have strict anti-corruption, reporting and transparency standards. MRDF also requires its partners to comply with our own rigorous monitoring and auditing processes, and staff regularly visit partners to see their work, conduct spot checks, and ask for feedback from communities involved in the projects. MRDF is also a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) which provides citizens in developing countries with the information they need to hold donors and governments to account for spending on development projects.

Corruption can most effectively be tackled by paying public officials a living wage and empowering communities to hold their governments and institutions to account. One of the ways that MRDF is working to challenge corruption is by supporting communities to claim their rights. In Cameroon MRDF is working with partner CDVTA to help elderly people gain access to identity cards so they can exercise their right to vote in elections and hold their government to account.

Myth 4: Only the poorest countries need aid

A report carried out by the Institute of Development Studies in 2010 calculated that approximately three quarters of the world's 1.3 billion poor people live in middle-income countries (MICs) such as India and Pakistan. Although these previously poorer countries have been reclassified to reflect their economic growth, this prosperity has not been felt by their all their citizens, and the gap between rich and poor is increasing.

To address this imbalance, aid is now used in MICs to strengthen civil society, so poor and marginalised groups can lobby their governments for the rights and services they are entitled to. Indeed the report states: 'One read of the data is that poverty is increasingly turning from an international to a national distribution problem, and that governance and domestic taxation and redistribution policies become of more importance than overseas development assistance'

MRDF is working with a local partner, READ, in Orissa, India to train tribal women, who are often marginalised, in leadership skills and advocacy so they can confidently voice their opinions in public and demand services from the government. Last year, participants in the project successfully lobbied their local government to fund village drains to improve health, provide free electricity for 156 poor families, repair five wells so communities could access safe water, and provide 380 vulnerable families with mosquito nets to protect them from malaria.

other Myths and the Truth will be discussed in the next Messenger

As I was walking down life's highway, many years ago,
I came across a sign that read "HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE".

When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside
And saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care".

Everything a human needed was in that Grocery Store,
And what you could not carry you could come back for more.

First I got some PATIENCE
LOVE was in that same row
Further down was UNDERSTANDING
You need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM and FAITH a bag or two
And CHARITY of course, I would need some of that too.

I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST, it was all over the place
And then some STRENGTH and COURAGE, to help me run the race.
My basket now was getting full but I remembered I needed GRACE.

And then I chose SALVATION for salvation was for free
I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.

Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill
For I thought I had everything to do the Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER and put that in
For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into sin.

SONG and PRAISE were hanging up, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
"My child" he said "God paid your bill, a long, long time ago".

*"This poem has been sent to you with love and blessings.
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE in the Church Family. PEACE, HOPE,
HAPPINESS, JOY AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A HEALTHY 2014."
"MABUHAY" - "CHEERS" from a friend!*

Lita Requinton Stoll

COULD IT HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY ?????

Christian Solidarity Worldwide “Voice for the Voiceless.” An organisation we know little about and a subject we perhaps should all know more about.

In Great Britain the number of attacks on religious meeting places - temples, synagogues and especially churches are small in number and each one make the news. Just because their belief is not your belief is no reason for attacking and desecrating any place of worship. All such attacks must be condemned BUT what is the situation for Christians elsewhere in the world? Not so good - there are reports of attacks, threats and restrictions being placed on Christian groups in a growing number of countries where religious tolerance is becoming progressively a thing of the past.

In March this year, a Sri Lankan church was forced to close after it was threatened with an attack “like a tsunami”. The pastor was warned that his church would be attacked by Buddhist extremists, and police would be unable to protect them. Displaying immense courage, however, he and his family stood their ground.



CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

police officer told the church that “Christians should stop meeting together in any way.”

The pressure on churches is building in many parts of the country– and not just in Sri Lanka, but also in places like Mexico, Indonesia, Cuba and Egypt.

Help us to spread the word about churches under pressure

This affects hundreds of churches around the world. In some countries it's their government who wants them gone – in others, it's armed mobs with either tacit or open support from local authorities.

The church leaders are incredibly brave but it's unacceptable that this goes on and no one speaks out about it. One of the challenges is to raise public awareness of this problem – and that's where **you** can help.

In Indonesia, Reverend Palti's church regularly has to cancel services because of the threat of attack by Muslim extremists. A Cuban church is under pressure from government officials who want to confiscate their property. Last month, four people were killed when gunmen opened fire on a wedding at a church in Egypt.

This time, there was no attack. Soon afterwards a

**F i n d o u t m o r e
w w w . c s w . o r g . u k
o r c a l l
0 8 4 5 4 5 6 5 4 6 4**

21 December - Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.



**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
OUR READERS AND EVERY GOOD
WISH FOR 2014. AS USUAL PAM AND
ALAN WILL BE DONATING FUNDS TO
MRDF INSTEAD OF SENDING CARDS
TO THE KINGSDOWN FAMILY.**



*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

Christmas and St Luke's Gospel

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!



Your Gift of Life – at Christmas

*Creaking on the staircase -
Noise outside my door -
A rustle in the chimney –
It's 'Santa-time' once more.
St. Nicholas is on his way
With all his Christ-life gifts
To fire every child-light with
The loving Christ-mass kiss.*

*In some he'll place the gift of gold -
In others frankincense -
While others will be given myrrh -
All signs of God's presence.*

*For in each earthly crib or bed
In squalor, comfort, splendour -
The Christ child has been placed again
To call the world to wonder.*

*So come you kings, come one, come all,
Come shepherds to the cradle stall
And hear the angels sing a-new
The heavenly song they sing for you.*

*Your God is in your gift of life -
The life He gives with love -
So take the gift and use it,
Use it wisely, don't abuse it,
Let the Christ-life fire your spirit
That God in you may LIVE.*

By Sam Doubtfire

Methodists use a Compass...



The Methodist Church has launched a new interactive guide and group resource that introduces the Christian faith to those wishing to explore its meaning in greater depth. The Compass Course covers the basics of Christianity as well as the heritage of the Methodist church, and its present expression today.

The course has eight sessions which are intended to take participants on a journey through the basics of Christianity, whilst exploring the experiences of Methodist heritage and present expressions of church. Sessions will offer an opportunity to ask questions and reflect collectively on different aspects of the Christian faith, such as: what difference Jesus makes today, how are we empowered by the Holy Spirit and in what ways can we engage with Scripture? The final session 'Called by Name' makes Compass suitable for those exploring membership.

Where the course has been piloted by district officers, it has received an enthusiastic response. The course materials comprise a Leader's Guide, Participants' Workbook and an Images pack for Session Two. The Workbook and Images pack can be ordered from Methodist Publishing (£5 each plus p&p), as well as a sampler.

Details at: www.methodist.org.uk.

'Winter Warm Up' Clothes Appeal

Ealing Council is asking residents to donate warm winter clothes to help people in need this winter. The 'Winter Warm Up' appeal will run from 1st – 20th December and items will be passed on to people in need by local charities including St Mungo's and Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter as well as the council's housing service. The appeal is for donations of men's, women's and children's clothes, clean and in good condition in all sizes and for all ages.

Please take donations of clothes to Ealing Town Hall. It is open every day and donations can be dropped off Monday - Friday between 8.00am – 9.00pm; Saturday between 9.00am – 5.00pm and Sunday between 9.00am – 3.00pm.



6 January - Epiphany

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia.

It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming.

Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.





Someone once said the day would come when men would walk upon the moon, but we just scoffed, "a likely tale!" and, "that won't happen soon!" Someone said that they would dig *a tunnel`neath the sea*, so we could drive across to France and back in time for tea!

Someone said we'd fly like birds in buses that had wings, above the clouds, across the world, and not held up by strings!
Someone said the time would come when friends in distant places would speak to us on mobile phones and we could see their faces!

With laptops and computers and iPods, pads and such
Our every need could be supplied on screen with just a touch and all the world would be joined up by one great internet.



Of all the likely tales we've heard , That is the best one yet!

With acknowledgement to Eastcote Methodist Church Magazine



Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later:
"Computer's completely not working now."





Major Underground Works over the Christmas Period

Piccadilly Line

From Boxing Day, 26 December until Monday 30 December

Piccadilly line trains call additionally at Ravenscourt Park, Stamford Brook, Turnham Green and Chiswick Park throughout the day, and some trains will be diverted to/from Ealing Broadway. This is due to major track replacement works at Earl's Court affecting the District line.

District line

Boxing Day, 26 December, until 1900, no service between Earl's Court and Ealing Broadway / Kensington (Olympia) / Richmond. From 1900, no service between Edgware Road / South Kensington and Ealing Broadway / Kensington (Olympia) / Richmond / Wimbledon. Replacement buses operate, and Piccadilly line trains call additionally at Ravenscourt Park, Stamford Brook, Turnham Green and Chiswick Park, with some trains operating to Ealing Broadway.

Replacement buses operate.

From Friday 27 until Monday 30 December, no service between Edgware Road / South Kensington and Ealing Broadway / Kensington (Olympia) / Richmond / Wimbledon. Replacement buses operate, and Piccadilly line trains call additionally at Ravenscourt Park, Stamford Brook, Turnham Green and Chiswick Park, with some trains operating to Ealing Broadway.

Replacement buses operate

Service A: Wimbledon - Wimbledon Park - Southfields - East Putney - Putney Bridge - Hammersmith

Service B: Wimbledon - Putney Bridge - Parsons Green - Fulham Broadway - West Brompton - Earl's Court

Service C: Richmond - Kew Gardens Victoria Gate - Gunnersbury - Chiswick Park - Turnham Green (for Piccadilly line)



St NICHOLAS

Feast Day 6 December

St Nicholas was the bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, in the fourth century. Lots of stories are told of his kindness and generosity. He is the patron saint of Russia, children, scholars, merchants and sailors.

One legend tells of his secret gifts to three daughters from a poor family. It is said that he threw 3 purses of gold down the chimney where they landed in the girls' stockings which they had hung up to dry in front of the fire. This is supposed to be the origin of hanging up Christmas stockings.



Over time the name of St Nicholas changed to Sinterklass and thus to Santa Claus in the Christmas celebrations.

STOCKING DECORATIONS

You will need some Christmas-coloured felt, a needle and thread, fabric glue, ribbon and sequins or buttons for decoration.

Fold the felt in half and cut out two simple stocking shapes. Sew these together with a simple running stitch, leaving the top edge open. Sew a loop of ribbon to the top of the stocking.

Now you can decorate the stocking with scraps of felt, lace, buttons or sequins. Glue them on carefully and leave to dry. You could even try writing a name in glue and sprinkling on glitter to cover it.

This would be nice to give as a present with a little present or sweet inside or to hang on the Christmas tree as a decoration. You can make it any size you like.



How many presents can Santa fit into an empty stocking?

Only one, after that it is not empty any more.

Why is a foot a good Christmas present?

Because it's a stocking filler.



St WULFSTAN 19th January

St Wulfstan was Bishop of Worcester from 1062-95. He lived during the Norman Conquest of England and was the only Saxon bishop to remain under William the Conqueror.

Wulfstan was a caring and hard-working monk. He rebuilt the cathedral at Worcester, cared for the poor, and struggled to ease the harsh conditions imposed by the Normans on the Saxons. Unlike some priests, he baptised children of the poor without charge. It is said that he never turned away people asking for help.

Wulfstan fought the slave trade in Bristol (slave trading didn't just start with slaves from Africa but had been going on for centuries with slaves from England being sold to Ireland and North Africa).

Wulfstan died whilst washing the feet of 12 poor men during a service in the cathedral. He died as he had lived, serving God and caring for others.

CATHEDRAL SAINTS

Some cathedrals are associated with or dedicated to particular saints. Can you link the saint with the cathedral?

St Giles	Lichfield
St Mungo	Ely
St Chad	Durham
St Etheldreda	Edinburgh
St Cuthbert	Winchester
St Swithin	Glasgow



**Did you hear about the man
who took his car in for a
service?**

It got stuck in the church doors.

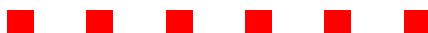
**What's green, curly &
religious?**

Lettuce pray.



**What lives in a paper bag and
hangs around in French
cathedrals?**

The lunch-pack of Notre Dame.



Answers: St Giles at Edinburgh, St Mungo at Glasgow, St Chad at Lichfield, St Etheldreda at Ely, St Cuthbert at Durham, St Swithin at Winchester.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

DECEMBER

- Mon 9 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
Tue 10 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
Wed 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group - closed until New Year
7.00 pm Youth Group
Fri 13 10.15 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - Everyone welcome
BOYS BRIGADE 6.30-7.30 pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm
Junior Section, 7.30-10.00 pm Company Section (most
Fridays throughout month)
Sat 14 10.30 am Coffee & Chat in the Foyer - Everyone welcome
Tue 17 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Christmas Tea Party/Dave entertains

JANUARY 2014

- Tues 7 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club Programme begins.
Wed 8 1 - 3 pm Babies and Toddlers Group restarts



The next meeting of the Kingsdown Church Council is arranged for
27th March 2014.

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

All Copyright material reproduced in The Messenger under CCL Licence 834574

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the February 2014 issue is Friday 17th January 2014

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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