



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



'We will remember them'

November 2014



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

- 2 Nov 10.30 Rev Eric Thorn, MHA Chaptain at Wembley
MHA Sunday
6.30 CIRCUIT SERVICE at Greenford
(30th anniversary of the Greenford Healing Services
and will include remembrance for the bereaved.)
- 9 Nov 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family/Parade Service
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
6.30 CIRCUIT SERVICE at Greenford
(Recognition Service of Charmaine Dinham as a Local
Preacher.)
- 16 Nov 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
- 23 Nov 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford
- 30 Nov 10.30 Mr Donney Samuel
(followed by 'Vision' meeting for AwayDay)



The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

**Copy deadline for the December - January issue is
Friday 21st November 2014**

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



Dear friends,
Remember, remember...

Memory makes us who we are. Stories shared by us in our families shape and describe what is important to us. Painful memories can continue to hurt and will change how we react to the present. Ways we've learned to protect ourselves can help or hinder us in the present. Our joyful memories send us confidently onwards. We only have to look at world history and the news to see how unhealed past animosities create present wars.

Memory echoes around the beginning of November. We begin with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, remembering the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. This year we are joining the rest of the circuit for a memorial service on Sunday 2nd November when we will also be celebrating 30 years of the circuit's healing ministry. Then on the 9th November the theme continues with Remembrance Sunday, when part of our commemoration will involve creating our own Field of Remembrance courtesy of Mary's imagination and creativity.

Towards the end of the month memory comes into play again as we mark the end of the development project. This will be a chance to celebrate what we've done, to lay aside past hurts and to clear the ground so we can look forward and plan our vision for the future. On the afternoon of Saturday 29th November we will come together for a service and a party.

I hope you'll join us for some or all of these occasions.

With love
Rachel



KINGSDOWN FAMILY NEWS

We are sorry that Peter Loveridge has again had a spell in hospital following a fall, but Kathleen is hopeful that he may get a short spell in Clayponds to build up his strength before returning home. Kathleen herself has also been unwell, so we send all good wishes to them both for a swift recovery. Please remember them in your prayers as well as any other members of the church family who may be unwell at this time.

Valerie Kingdown

The Thanksgiving Service for the life of Mrs. Valerie Kingdown took place at St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 16 October. She will be known to many as a local Brownie Guider and District Commissioner for the Guide Movement, as well as being married to Tom Kingdom (deceased) who was a member of Kingsdown Church choir for many years.

As a young Guider, I remember her mentoring me and being so kind and caring. When I was taking Guides to camp, she would drive over to see us off, and present us with a jar of home made jam!

Val, as she was more commonly known, was a lovely lady; she had a fall at home in January 2014 and went into a care home in Ealing for recuperation, intending to return home, but this was not to be; she suffered more falls and therefore her stay was extended.

It was not easy for Val to adjust to a home as she had always been so independent. When I visited her, she remained bright and keen to hear news of people we both knew.

She will be sadly missed.

Jill Richardson



"Your word is a lamp
for my feet,
a light for my path"
Psalm 119:105

Decorate the Church for Christmas

The Northfield Traders' 'Winter Wonderland' evening this year is on Thursday, 27 November. We therefore need to decorate the church from Monday, 24 to Wednesday 26 in preparation for this event.

Offers of help will be very much appreciated as well as your nativity sets, particularly new ones, as well as old: and please feel free to come up with fresh ideas for making our church beautiful and inviting for any visitors who might care to drop by and see our preparations for the birth of the Christchild.

Kathleen Loveridge tel: 020 8579 3941



Advent Prayer

Generous, loving Father,

Thank you for sending your son Jesus, not only to show us the way, but to be the way back to you. As we prepare to celebrate again that first arrival in the stable in Bethlehem, all those years ago, help us through the busyness, joys and difficulties of life to keep our eyes on Jesus. Help us to be alert and ready for his second, glorious, majestic arrival, which will come – on time- just as you have planned. May we be steadfast and expectant,

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

From the Church Council



The most recent meeting of the Church Council took place on 16th October. This was the first to be chaired by our new minister, Rev Rachel Bending, and also the first to be attended by representatives from the King's Hall Class Meeting, now part of the Kingsdown family.

As described in a more detailed article in this edition of the Messenger, the Council agreed to commit Kingsdown to operating a night shelter on four Sunday nights as part of the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter later this year.

The Council discussed the theme and arrangements for the church AwayDay on 7th March next year (put that date in your diaries...). Picking up from the first AwayDay in April, the theme for the day will be 'Where Do We Want to Go as a Church?' There will be some 'open church' discussions ('Visions Days') to prepare for the day which will be held around the end of November and towards the end of January/beginning of February and will be on Sundays after church. The discussions will include a 'bring and share' lunch and will open with a short Bible Study linked to the overall theme for the AwayDay which will be led by Rachel. The dates for the Vision Days have since been fixed as 30th November, 18th January and 15th February – watch out for further information nearer the time.

One proposal from the AwayDay in April was the idea of holding a celebration to mark the end of the redevelopment project. Whilst this was finished some time ago we have never marked it. So, a celebration will be arranged for Saturday 29th November and will include a time of worship as well as social activity. Sybil Corbin and Kath Jarrett will be organising this.

Rachel said that since arriving at Kingsdown she had been impressed by the worship and our sense of fellowship. She felt, however that we need to put greater emphasis on the spiritual development of our church in worship. The meeting discussed this and agreed there are too many 'special' Sundays related to particular charities and causes. Other ways to encompass these would be considered, possibly after services during coffee time.

Rob Hutchings presented the annual accounts and the budget for this Connexional year. The church finished the year in reasonably healthy financial position and the budget for the year is based on achieving broad break-even financially. Rob has decided to stand down as treasurer at the end of 2014 after about 15 years of faithful service. If you would be interested in taking on some or all the role of treasurer, please speak to Rachel.

Our various committees don't have formal written remits and a small group will be formed to draft remits for each for approval by the Council. In a similar vein, the Council voted to give our Property Steward, Janet Smith delegated authority to spend up to £300 on routine maintenance and repair work without seeking prior approval.

David Street reminded the meeting of forthcoming Circuit services:-

Greenford on 2nd November at 6.30pm

Greenford on 9th November at 6.30pm

The service on 2nd November will be the 30th anniversary of the Greenford Healing Services and will include remembrance for the bereaved. The service on 9th November will be the recognition service for Charmaine Dinham as a Local Preacher.

Our Christmas services this year will be as follows:

Gift Service	14 th December at 10.30am (Family/Parade service)
Carol Service	21 st December at 6.00pm – Rachel Bending to organise (note time)
Christmas Eve	Holy Communion at 11.30pm
Christmas Morning	10.00am

The next meeting of the Church Council is planned for 17th March 2015.





Night Shelter at Kingsdown

During the past three years nearly twenty local churches in the borough of Ealing (including the Methodist Churches in Hanwell and Greenford and our neighbouring Anglican church St Paul's) have participated in the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter (ECWNS) which provides overnight accommodation, a hot meal, breakfast, fellowship and support to local homeless people from late November until March.

One of the expected venues this year, Hope Community Church in Perivale, has had to drop out as, following refurbishment, their premises are no longer suitable. So an urgent request came to Kingsdown from the ECWNS asking if we could provide a venue instead on four Sunday nights from 30th November to 21st December inclusive.

After consideration at its recent meeting, the Kingsdown Church Council agreed we would rise to the challenge, given assurances that members of Hope Community Church would be helping us run the shelter at Kingsdown. The shelter will operate in the hall from about 6.00pm to 8.30am, with guests arriving at about 7.30pm. Sue Barton has volunteered to act as venue co-ordinator jointly with Daphne Edwards from Hope Community Church.

The maximum number of guests at the shelter will be 14, the majority of them likely to be men. All of them will be 'screened' for suitability by the local agencies with whom the ECWNS works closely, before being offered accommodation at shelters operated by churches in the scheme. This avoids the shelter staff, all of whom are volunteers, having to deal with people too difficult for them to handle.

The venue co-ordinators are given appropriate training for their role and Alison Wood, the ECWNS Project Co-ordinator usually visits each venue at the start of the evening to provide latest updates and participate in the prayer session before the shelter opens its doors to the guests.

Staffing for the ECWNS shelters operates on a shift basis. The evening shift from 6pm to 10pm is responsible for setting up the beds, preparing and serving a meal and, if wished, spending time afterwards talking to the guests and playing board games with them. A small number of volunteers stay overnight from 10pm to 7pm in case of any emergency arising. The morning shift from 6.45am to 8.30am serves breakfast and packs up the beds which are transported by volunteers later in the day to the next venue. The guests depart before 8.30am, so will have gone before the staff of the pre-school which operates in our hall arrive (the children do not arrive until 9.30am).

Several members of Kingsdown, plus members of Hope Community Church and other local churches who have volunteered for the ECWNS in previous years have already kindly offered to help with the four sessions of the shelter at Kingsdown, however anyone else from Kingsdown who would like to assist will be most welcome.

There are some other ways that members of Kingsdown can also support the night shelter if wished. For example for one or more of the Sundays you could -

- Help prepare vegetables or salad in advance in the hall kitchen on the Sunday afternoon.
- Contribute a dessert for the meal.
- Wash one load of bedding (sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers) ready for the following Sunday
- Loan playing cards, draughts, chess set, "tumbling tower" game, dominos, board games and general interest magazines for the guests and volunteers to enjoy during the social time after the meal.

And, of course, please remember the ECWNS guests and volunteers at Kingsdown and elsewhere in your prayers.

For more information, or to make an offer of help,
please contact Sue Barton on 020 8840 7704
or by email at sue.garland6039@btinternet.com.



West London Football Competition

We enjoyed a fabulous day at the BB West London Football Competition on Saturday 18th October, and there were about 90 Boys in attendance from several Companies.

At the end of the day we did extremely well, capturing a gold, two silvers and two bronze -- what a great start to our session!

The Seniors retained their trophy and this marked a glorious farewell for some of our older Boys on their last visit to this event. Many have competed every year for the last decade and they have been consistently superb.

Our two Company Section teams finished second and third (with just one goal between them) and this trophy was captured by our good friends and neighbours, 4th Ealing (St Paul's) who were in formidable form today.



Our two Junior teams also finished second and third, just missing out on the trophy by one goal in extra time during the final -- heartbreaking but brilliant, and well done 1st Richmond who took the shield home.



Many thanks to our coaches, Lucie Jeer, Isabel Turner, Steven Potter and Allan Canfield. Thanks also to the many supporters and parents who ensured all Boys arrived on time and were dropped off home. This is the kind of dedication that makes our job so much easier.

A big Well Done to the Boys who displayed immaculate conduct on and off the pitch at all times and their comradeship and work ethic was a joy to behold.

Tony Plews

Football outreach

During the World Cup, The Bible Society of Brazil distributed 4 million pocket-sized Bibles, twenty thousand copies of the Gospel of John in nine different languages, and World Cup editions of the New Testament and the Bible.



Long Service Awards

Following up from last month's report on BB Long Service Awards, I'm happy to confirm that Messrs Lane and Plews have both received 30-year certificates and Mr Mark Tobias has now celebrated 20 years of continuous leadership.

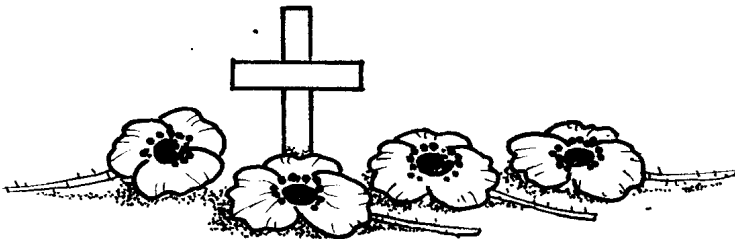
Kingsdown's BB continues to thrive partly because the three Officers work very closely and, most importantly, because they remain the firmest of friends. We do have two new volunteers working with the Company (Mr Ahmed Salem and Mr Trevor Sturrock), which is very exciting and our Senior Boys contribute enormously to every event.

Our long run of Competition success is a by-product of the tremendous fellowship and brotherhood that exists within the Company. None of this would be possible without the support of the Church family for which we remain very grateful.

Mark, David and Tony will happily continue to serve for as long as it remains fun and challenging, and for as long as there are Boys to teach and introduce to the Gospel.

Sure and Steadfast.

Tony Plews
Company Captain



'For your tomorrow we gave our today'

Richmond Park Harvest Walk



Violet, June, Rita and I were part of this year's Harvest Walk, and what a wonderful day we had.

The day was just right, a warm autumnal sun, a light breeze, the fallow deer and all the beautiful autumn colours of the leaves.

As we walked enjoying one another's company and the beauty of the park, we were reminded of the plight of those suffering in many countries Worldwide.

The sponsorship money we collected, amounting to around £300 will go to enabling partners in our own country and around the world bringing messages of hope and demonstrating God's love through practical support to those in dire need.

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

The Organisation works globally for profound changes that eradicate the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. Christian Aid provides urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

Janet Smith

(We learn that Janet suffered a fall during the walk but continued undeterred bravo Janet! We trust there were no lasting ill effects. Eds.)



KINGSDOWN'S BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP

After the summer holidays, when a few of our children left for the start of their school careers, we have had several new families enjoying their time with us.

Rita (Safta) and Jill Richardson have joined as new helpers. The Group caters for mums, dads, grandmas/granddads, carers, nannies and child-minders with their small charges (many coming quite a distance as there are not many afternoon Toddlers Groups in the area).

The hall is laid out with separate areas for babies, and a range of toys suitable for toddlers, as well as table activities such as playdo and lego.

Doreen does a splendid job in the kitchen of providing tea, coffee, juice and biscuits, ably assisted by Evelyn. Jill Ward is our 'leading light' with Doreen, Gwen, Pam, and Vera being part of the team of regular helpers, providing friendly faces to interact with the 'carers' and keep extra pairs of eyes on the children.

Jill Richardson

When I grow up



A small boy returned from Sunday School in floods of tears. When questioned by his mother about his distressed state, he sobbed: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be a train driver!"

Ebola Emergency Appeal

The retiring collections raised £149 for this appeal. Many thanks to those who kindly contributed to help with this urgently needed work in the affected countries.

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Methodist
relief and
development

Northfields Presents

WINTER WONDERLAND

Thursday
27th Nov

Join the community

*for food, fun &
festivities*

Evening 5.30

Until late

Poster by
Ben Jones
www.polyducks.co.uk



Celebration of Completion of the Redevelopment Project

This celebration will take place on Saturday, 29th November commencing at 6 pm in the Church. There will be a time of worship led by Rachel followed by a social time in the hall. Sybil Corbin and Kath Jarrett are organising the social and if anyone has any suggestions as to how we could spend this time together please let Sybil or Kath know.

We also plan to have refreshments and we will be putting up a list in the Church vestibule for people to put their names. We will also welcome offers of food.

Please put this date in your diaries. We hope to have as many people there as possible".

**May thanks.
Kath Jarrett.**

Has the World Gone Mad?

<i>Pythagoras' Theorem</i>	24	<i>words</i>
<i>Lord's Prayer</i>	66	<i>words</i>
<i>Archimedes' Principle</i>	67	<i>words</i>
<i>Ten Commandments</i>	179	<i>words</i>
<i>Gettysburg Address</i>	286	<i>words</i>
<i>US Declaration of Independence</i>	1,300	<i>words</i>
<i>US Constitution - all 27 Amendments</i>	7,818	<i>words</i>
<i>EU Regulations on Sale of CABBAGES</i>	26,911	<i>words</i>

From SPA News

The Kingdom of God

By Francis Thompson (1859–1907)

*O WORLD invisible, we view thee,
O world intangible, we touch thee,
O world unknowable, we know thee,
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!*

*Does the fish soar to find the ocean,
The eagle plunge to find the air—
That we ask of the stars in motion
If they have rumour of thee there?*

*Not where the wheeling systems darken,
And our benumbed conceiving soars!—
The drift of pinions, would we hearken,
Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.*

*The angels keep their ancient places;—
Turn but a stone, and start a wing!
'Tis ye, 'tis your estrangèd faces,
That miss the many-splendoured thing.*

*But (when so sad thou canst not sadder)
Cry;—and upon thy so sore loss
Shall shine the traffic of Jacob's ladder
Pitched betwixt Heaven and Charing Cross.*

*Yea, in the night, my Soul, my daughter,
Cry,—clinging Heaven by the hems;
And lo, Christ walking on the water
Not of Gennesareth, but Thames! From*

*The Oxford Book of English Mystical Verse. 1917.
Submitted by June Thompson*



Methodist
relief and
development

All We Can responds to Ebola outbreak in West Africa

All We Can is stepping up its response to the escalating Ebola crisis in West Africa. Since the Ebola outbreak was confirmed in the Guinean capital in January 2014, over 4000 people have died as the deadly virus has spread across West Africa. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are the most severely affected countries.

The risks

Since this is the first time that Ebola has affected West Africa, many people are unaware of the virus' effects, symptoms and means of prevention. This puts populations at increased risk of infection.

When the outbreak emerged earlier in the year, All We Can supported local partner AMAPEF in Mali, which neighbours Guinea, to deliver awareness-raising activities to enable border communities to identify the symptoms and protect against infection.

However the situation in Sierra Leone and Liberia has worsened significantly since then. Health workers are working with limited equipment at great personal risk to provide what care they can to affected communities.

In response, All We Can has today made an immediate grant of £10,000 to our ACT Alliance partner the Lutheran Development Service to support their humanitarian work through the Lutheran Church in Liberia. The ACT Alliance works through local churches and church-based agencies to help those in greatest need, regardless of their religion or ethnicity.

All We Can has also opened an emergency appeal fund for donations to support the relief effort in Sierra Leone and Liberia and help prevent the spread of the virus.

How we are responding

In Liberia we are responding through ACT partner the Lutheran Church in Liberia to fund:

Awareness-raising activities to help communities understand how Ebola is contracted and prevent infection;

Psychosocial support for Ebola survivors, their families, community members, and service providers, to help people cope with very challenging situations;

Food for quarantined communities and families of victims of Ebola;

Hygiene supplies including soap and chlorine for hand washing to help prevent infection.

In Sierra Leone, ACT partner the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone is also providing hand washing materials to prevent infection and supporting awareness-raising activities in communities.

Please do all you can - Donate to the appeal today

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/make-a-donation>

and put 'Ebola Emergency' in the Message space

If you would prefer to donate by telephone using a credit or debit card, call 020 7224 4814.

Join us in prayer

Lord of all the nations,

we pray for the people of West Africa.

We pray that the Ebola virus is contained and its impact limited.

We pray for those who have already been affected:

for families grieving for the loss of loved ones,

for communities living in fear,

and for health workers, NGOs and local volunteers

doing all they can to provide protection, comfort and prevention.

May they know your presence,

be guided by your love,

strengthened by your spirit,

History of Pitshanger Methodist Church

It was in 1910 as a result of the initiative of the Ealing and Acton Circuit that the site for the church – Pitshanger Farm – was acquired.

From 1911 to 1913 services were held in the Brentham Institute when the school hall became available for worship and social needs.

In 1945 a Circuit Thanksgiving fund was set up to make good war damage and assist in any development felt necessary as the war had made such work impossible, apart from Ealing Broadway, all the remaining churches benefitted from this fund and Pitshanger received assistance with the erection of a prefabricated hall (the only type of building allowed at that time) which was opened in 1950.

Further development of the site as a church was not possible so that the 1913 School Hall was built into the present church in 1955. This involved raising the hall by twelve feet, the installation of pews and the removal of the old organ, with the pipes being used in the present organ, plus additional stops and pipes (*the cost being defrayed by the late Mr. T. Moullin*)



Later the prefabricated hall was felt to be inadequate and nearing the end of its life, so in 1979 the new hall, foyer and other rooms were added making a very compact unit which has been a great asset to the church.

Pastorally, Pitshanger has undergone many changes. For example, there was a combined West Ealing/Pitshanger Tennis Club. In 1952 the church was linked with Perivale (the late Mrs Rodgers started a Young Wives' Guild), but in 1978, due to Circuit financial problems, and the unwillingness of the appropriate authority to allow only a little help from the Circuit advance fund, a ministerial appointment was lost.

First Pitshanger became linked with Greenford, and then more recently with Hanwell. With these changes it was inevitable that pastoral oversight would suffer.

Pitshanger Church abuts the Brentham Conservation area and remains very much within a local community. The premises are in great demand and local church activities include the Women's Bright Hour, Junior Church, Toddlers' Club, ballet classes, keep fit etc.

The evening services were restricted to once a month, and due to lack of support the choir closed.

When considering the history of Pitshanger one is reminded of the work and dedication of those who gave so much of their time and talents in the building up of this unit in the Circuit. It reminds us of the heritage for which we are now responsible and the prime purpose of our work.

**Written by Sydney Wooldridge
Submitted by Janet Smith**

God bless

Thora Hird told this story on a BBC1 programme 'Praise Be' about a little girl saying her prayers: "God bless Mummy, God bless Daddy, God bless my brother Tommy, God bless Granny – and God look after yourself, 'cos if anything happens to you, we've had it!"

HARVEST

Many thanks to everyone who took the time and effort to decorate the church for our Harvest Festival Service, as well as to those who contributed the many gifts suitable for donating to the Ealing Food Bank.



Our focal point was the 'sukkah' provided by Rachel; elsewhere the shelves and tables were laden with suitable 'goodies' enhanced by flowers and greenery to promote the harvest theme.

At the service we had a 'full house' and were all required to be involved in decorating the sukka, all of which led to a very festive atmosphere.



Further thanks for all the co-operation received in dismantling everything in such a short space of time after the service to leave the church spick and span for the afternoon congregation which uses our premises.



(A *sukkah* is a temporary hut constructed for use during the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot. It is topped with branches and often well decorated with autumnal, harvest or Judaic themes. The Book of Vayikra (Leviticus) describes it as a symbolic wilderness shelter, commemorating the time God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness they inhabited after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. It is common for Jews to eat, sleep and otherwise spend time in the *sukkah*. In Judaism, Sukkot is considered a joyous occasion and is referred to in Hebrew as Yom Simchateinu (the day of our rejoicing) or Z'man Simchateinu (the time of our

rejoicing), and the *sukkah* itself symbolizes the frailty and transience of life and its dependence on God.)



Remembering the fall of the Berlin Wall

- 25 years ago

The Berlin Wall, which had symbolised Communist oppression in Europe since its erection in 1981, was torn down 25 years ago this month, following pressure from inside and outside East Germany.

The border with West Germany was opened on 9th November 1989, allowing people to pass freely through the checkpoints. Workers began demolishing the 28-year-old wall the next day. The former long-time leader of East Germany, Erich Honecker, had predicted a few months earlier that the wall could stand for 50 or 100 more years.

Many Christians – and others – felt that a prayer meeting held exactly one month earlier made the fall of the Wall inevitable, when many thousands of people, ignoring death threats and huge banks of armed police, gathered at St Nicholas Church in the East German city of Leipzig to pray and march for peace.

It was the culmination of seven years of weekly Prayers for Peace meetings organised by Christian Führer, the pastor of St Nicholas, despite strong opposition from the authorities.

Protest demonstrations were breaking out all over East Germany, and on 9th November Günter Schabowski, the party boss in East Berlin, had the task of announcing the opening of borders the following day. However, he had been badly briefed and when questioned by journalists said this would take effect immediately. The border guards had not been informed, but refused to fire on those who took Schabowski at his word.

In July 1988, singer Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band played a live concert inside East Berlin, which was attended by 300,000 and broadcast on television. Springsteen spoke to the crowd in German, saying: "I'm not here for or against any government. I've come to play rock 'n' roll for you in the hope that one day all the barriers will be torn down."

Hanwell Methodist Church

FROST Fayr e

**Saturday
22nd November
10:30am - 2:00pm**

**FREE
admission**

**Table sale
Cakes
Children's crafts
Gifts
Toiletries
Tombola
and much
more...**

**Refreshments and light
lunches available**



Hanwell Methodist Church, Church Road, Hanwell, W7 1DJ
To view our services and other events at our Church
please visit our website at www.hanwellmethodist.info

Getting old has never been so funny

These sayings are taken from some of the thousands of greeting cards created by British artist Cath Tate in a 30 year career

- If my savings.....*What I'll do on the second day I'm not sure.*
- At my age it helps to slip into something comfortable.....*like denial*
- No, I don't want double glazing.....*would you like to hear about my operation?*
- *I'm old enough now to drink myself* into an early grave.
 -
- Youth would be ideal if it came a little later in life.
- The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly and lie about your age
- The ten best years of a woman's life are between 39 and 59.
- Inside every middle-aged woman is a 14 year old trying to get out.
- Age and treachery will triumph over youth and skill
- Old enough to know better Young enough to do it anyway.
- Middle age is when your broadmind and narrow waist change places
- The trouble with having bags under your eyes is finding the shoes to match
- Make hay, before you're put out to grass
- I don't hear as well as I did, but I never used to listen anyway.

Submitted by Janet Smith

Lest We Forget

One of the most amazing sights in London this year has been the art installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' at the Tower of London. The dry moat has been filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies, each representing a British or Colonial soldier killed in the First World War and commemorated in this centenary year.

'In Flanders fields, the poppies grow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our places; and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amongst the guns below.'

This is the first stanza of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. Within months, it came to symbolise the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in war. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing about 700 years before Christ, Micah's words have to be seen against a background of violence with the fall of Samaria and

the instability created by the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace instead of war. His vision saw a time when the arms of war would be turned into farming tools and people would live in peaceful community.

Our understanding of peace is more than the avoidance of war or the absence of conflict. It's about building relationships between people, communities and nations, which positively creates a love and care for others founded on justice for all. As we remember the sacrifice of those who died in the First World War, our response must be to look practically at how we can build relationships of peace and justice in our world, starting with our own families, colleagues and neighbourhoods. As Micah says, 'we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.' (4:5). We always need God's presence and power to change us into the people who have a passion for peace and justice, and compassion for everyone.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

*Rev Paul Hardinghamom
Parish Pump*

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

Part 11 of 12 : THE GREAT WAR: ARMISTICE



1918 was a miserable year for the countries involved in the Great War. Nothing much seemed to happen, in the sense of the conflict coming to any conclusion. Casualties continued to mount, so that all over Europe there were bereaved families - indeed whole villages where most of the young men had been killed or were grievously wounded.

In Britain, the advantage of being an island may have kept us from the invading German army, but now it began to make us vulnerable to a new and deadly foe, the marauding U-boats, which stalked the seas in order to torpedo ships bringing food and goods to these shores. Suddenly there were shortages and the need for a new naval strategy to deal with their menace. Zeppelin, and then aircraft raids on London and other British cities brought home the truth that this war was not simply being fought out on foreign fields.

The truth was, however, that bad as things were in Britain and France, they were far worse in Germany. Casualties were so great that teenage boys were being recruited into the army, food was scarce, and

by early 1918 the resources to continue fighting the war were at breaking point. If they could not win the war in the next six months, the generals told the Kaiser, it would be lost. Soldiers were drafted back from the far-flung battle grounds of Asia and Africa to shore up the dwindling ranks at home.

By contrast, in June 1917 the first American troops had joined the war, though they were inexperienced in battle terms and relatively few in number. But by the Spring of 1918 their numbers had swollen, and the encouragement that gave to the hard-pressed Allies was considerable.

During the summer of that year the balance of the war began to tip crucially towards the Allies, so that as Autumn approached the German generals were moving towards accepting the need for some kind of negotiated cease-fire. The Allies were at the German borders, the Americans had brought not just men but equipment and, more importantly, hope. Perhaps, after all, this war could be won.

That was the atmosphere in which the warring powers agreed to formal talks about what they called an 'armistice' - a word derived from Latin, simply meaning 'end of armed combat'. The Germans at first hoped it would give them a chance to recover, and perhaps eventually pursue the conflict with renewed strength. The Allies, however, from a position of strength, were determined to ensure that Germany would be left in no condition to wage war or swiftly to recover economically.

With those as the negotiating positions, the generals met in a railway carriage at Versailles, near Paris. An armistice agreement was eventually hammered out and the guns of this terrible war were silenced at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

5 November - Guy Fawkes – an early terrorist!

Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found - and stopped - in time.

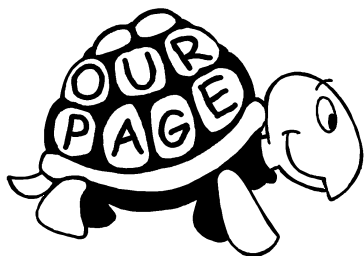


Take care if you are watching a firework display.

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

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

**There is no saint without a past and
no sinner without a future.**



COVENTRY'S CROSS

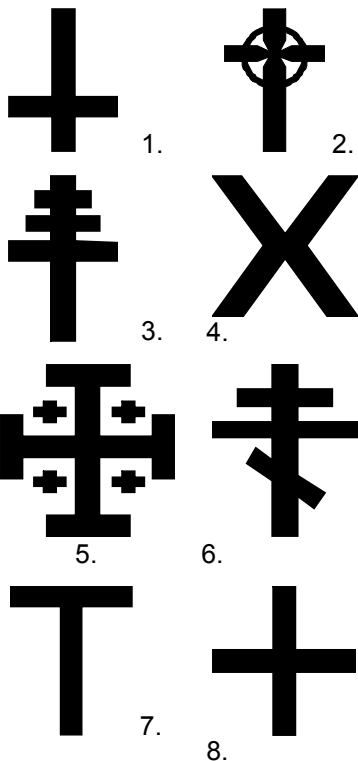
The people of Coventry will always remember the dreadfully long night of 14th November 1940. It was the longest air raid of the World War II and when the light dawned the next morning, Coventry was in ruins. So many people were dead, injured or homeless; there wasn't a person who had not suffered during that night.

The medieval cathedral was a burnt out shell. Two of the burnt roof beams were tied together to make a cross and this makeshift symbol was set up where the altar had been. A cross was also made from the 14th century iron nails that had held the roof together and this Cross of Nails still remains today as a symbol of sympathy, forgiveness and reconciliation. Copies of the Cross of Nails have been presented to countries round the globe as a reminder that love and understanding bind us together and that we need to remember the horrors that happen when people forget that.



CROSS PURPOSES

There are many different types of cross in pictures. Do you know what these are called?



What's green and hairy and drinks from the wrong side of the glass?

A gooseberry with hiccups.

What's the most common owl in this country?

The Tea Towl (ouch!)

Answers: 1.St Peter's 2.Celtic 3.Papal
4.St Andrew's 5.Jerusalem 6.Russian
Orthodox 7.St Anthony's 8.Greek

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

NOVEMBER

- Sun 2 4.00 pm Acton Hill - Iris Axon Concert Series - Richard Boothby, solo viol da gamba. Entry £6, concessions £5, children £2.
- Mon 3 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 4 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - A Musical Quiz with Bob Cunnington
- Wed 5 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
7 pm Youth Group - Upper Foyer
- Thu 6 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 7 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 8 10.30 am Coffee & Chat in the Foyer - Everyone welcome
- Tue 11 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 18 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Southborn Song Birds W1 entertain
- Sat 22 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Hanwell Frost Fayre. Admission free. Refreshments and light lunch available.
- Thu 27 Northfield Traders' Winter Wonderland Evening (see pp.5/15)
- Sat 29 Evening Celebration to mark completion of refurbishment of church - further details on p.16.
- Sun 30 Night Shelters start at Kingsdown (and 7, 14 and 21 Dec)

DECEMBER

- Gift Service 14 December at 10.30am (Family/Parade service)
- Carol Service 21 December at 6.00pm
- Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 11.30pm
- Christmas Morning 10.00am Family Service

Vision Days have been fixed as 30 November,
18 January and 15 February

