



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



September 2015



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 6 Sep 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending
6.30 **CIRCUIT & Healing Service at Greenford**
(to mark the start of the new Methodist year)
led by Deacon Richard Goldstraw & Mrs Penny Pedley
- 13 Sep 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Family Service
- 20 Sep 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
6.00 *(See below for commencement of Circuit Bible Studies)*
- 27 Sep 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford



(Sermon Series for Kingsdown based on 'We Make the Road by Walking' by Brian McLaren commences this month.)

Midweek Service

Starting on Thursday, 3 September, at 12.30 pm, Kingsdown will host a weekly short Meditative Service lasting a half to three quarters of an hour. The service will be followed by a time of 'Open House' when the church will be open to all-comers.

Circuit Discipleship

Starting on Sunday, 20 September, at 6.00 pm, there will be a series of Circuit Bible Studies at Kingsdown. The studies are included in the Quarterly Preaching Plan and further studies will be on 4 and 18 October, and 15 November. All are invited.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the October 2015 issue is Friday 25 September 2015

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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A Postcard from Finland

Dear friends,

By the time you read this I will have returned from a couple of weeks spent in Finland. It's been a time of bright clear skies, clear lakes, warm sunshine and complete quiet. It has given space for relaxation, rest and play, as well as a chance to reflect on my first year with you and to look forward to the next.

As we go into the next connectional year there is much to look forward to. Our worship (*both children and adults*) and Bible study this year will be shaped by Brian McLaren's book, 'We make the road by walking'.

In the Preface he writes

"I believe that all of us play a role in choosing and creating our futures - as individuals and as communities. We don't need to wait passively for history to happen to us. We can become protagonists in our own story. We can make the road by walking."

The book draws us through the stories of God in the scriptures, beginning in September with a section titled 'Alive in the story of creation' which will lead us through to Advent. I pray that as we travel through we will be able to look with fresh eyes at familiar stories and that our faith will be deepened.

Also influenced by the book will be the new Thursday afternoon sessions at the church. These will begin with an informal meditative service at 12.30pm and continue with space for coffee and conversation. They will be advertised with the local funeral directors and elsewhere as a place where people can find company and support.

On Sunday 20th September Thomas and I hope you'll join us at the manse from 12.30pm onwards for an informal lunch and party. This will begin a series of social events throughout the year. The next will be a barn dance on Saturday 17th October.

We could really do with a small group of people willing to oversee the organisation of our social events and co-ordinate them. Could you be one of those people? Please talk to me or one of the stewards if you'd like to be part of this.

While I'm at it more recruits and offers of help are needed...

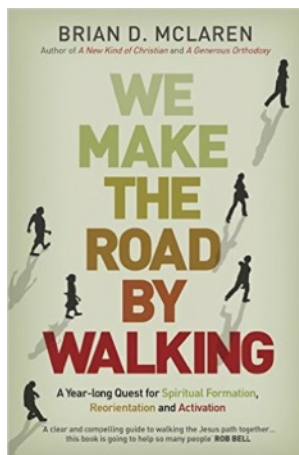
Could you be the Pastoral Secretary? (Please see Derek to find out what it might entail)

Could you help at the night shelter in December? (More details from Sue)

I hope you have had a good summer and are looking forward to the coming autumn as I am.

God bless

Rachel

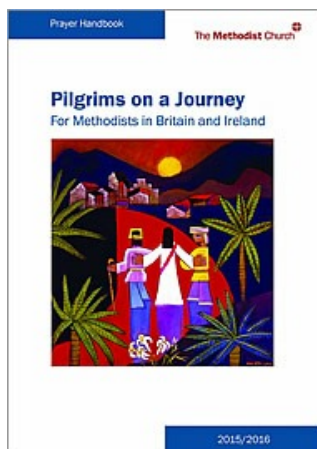


If you feel that you would like to study the authors work in more detail then copies can be obtained from::

Perivale Bookshop (via Christian Books) or Amazon. New, Kindle or Used. Amazon link below:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Make-Road-Walking-Reorientation-Activation/dp/1444703706>

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2015-16



Copies of the Prayer Handbook '**Pilgrims on a Journey**' are available in the foyer for anyone who would like to follow the prayer schedule used across the Methodist Church in Great Britain and Ireland.

There are large print copies for those who might find these useful.

Kathleen Loveridge

FAMILY NEWS

We were sorry to learn that Ivy Hanson's daughter Pauline has had a spell in hospital; she is now home and we hope that she is now well on the road to recovery.

With the summer break almost over, we hope everyone has benefited from a relaxing and enjoyable few weeks whether at home or further afield.

Hopefully too, all those youngsters who may have been taking exams will have good results and are looking forward to the start of a new school/college year.



Circuit Service at Greenford

To mark the start of the new Methodist year, the Healing Service at Greenford on Sunday 6th September at 6.30pm will be a Circuit Service. All are invited! Please note, however that the Circuit Picnic planned for that day at Greenford has been cancelled.

Midweek Services

Starting on Thursday 3rd September at 12.30pm Kingsdown will host a weekly short Meditative Service lasting a half to three quarters of an hour. The service will be followed by a time of 'Open House' when the church will be open to all-comers.

There is also a midweek service of Holy Communion at 10.30am on Wednesdays at Holy Trinity, Southall Park. Leadership of this service is shared between our presbyters and Anglican clergy.

Circuit Discipleship

Starting on Sunday 20th September at 6.00pm there will be a series of Circuit Bible Studies at Kingsdown. The studies are included in the Quarterly Preaching Plan and further studies will be on 4th and 18th October, and 1st and 15th November. All are invited to attend.

Boys' Brigade News

We ended our wonderful BB session with our 46th Annual Summer Camp, this year in Swanage.



All told there were fifty Campers on site and the weather was very kind for the most part. We filled our time with numerous games, competitions, walks and water events (the Boys particularly liked throwing water balloons at the staff). We made several visits to the beach which is always popular and the Seniors had lots of fun on their night hike.

Our theme for the week was "Star Wars" and we named the teams after the main characters and had lots of silliness based around the famous films. Our Evening Devotional Talks also focused on life-lessons and spiritual lessons that could be applied based on the heroic deeds in the stories.

It was lovely to have a visit from Rachel and Thomas who spent a whole day joining in with our adventures.

Summer Camp takes six months to prepare and then it's all gone in just seven days ... but it's worth every second of planning I can assure you. Roll on Summer 2016.

Tony Plews
Company Captain



Marathon Walk- Children Unite-21st June Windsor to Bourne End



I would like to thank all those who sponsored me for my walk and especially those from Kingsdown and the Circuit.

I am delighted to let you know that the sums raised thus far was £380. The money will go towards a Project in Tanzania, headed by Angel, to support children in 'Child domestic labour' and its prevention.

So a big thank you, once again!

Blossom Jackson

Government Equality Office Closing the Gender Pay Gap Responding to this Government consultation



I thought you would like to know that, as the current Methodist Women in Britain {MWiB} rep., I have completed and sent off a Response to the Govt, Consultation Paper, on behalf of MWiB and we look forward to seeing the results followed by Legislation, in due course.

The accompanying document can be viewed on our web site using the link below:-

<http://www.kingsdownmethodist.org.uk/helping-others/gender-pay-gap-consulations-and-mwib-response/>

Blossom Jackson

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

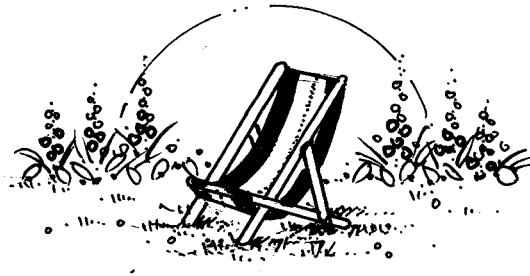
We have been asked by the organisers of the Ealing Churches Night Shelter if Kingsdown could again host the shelter for four Sunday nights from 29 November to 20 December inclusive. More details will be available in due course.

GARDEN PARTY

20TH SEPTEMBER
2015
12.30PM

AT THE MANSE

FOOD PROVIDED
BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING
SOMETHING TO DRINK



New Series Bible Studies

The new series of CBSI Bible Studies will be starting on

Thursday September 24th at 15.30p in the church foyer.

We will be starting a 30 week series on Romans and you are invited to our first meeting to find out more. Charges £1 per week for light refreshments and £10 for the study guide for the whole course or you can be sent a link to download it yourself.

Olwen Britton Co-ordinator

From the Church Council

The most recent Church Council meeting was held on 25th June.

The meeting started by looking back over the two 'AwayDays' and the two 'Vision Days' held after morning service. The following gives a 'flavour' of some of the topics touched upon –

- Whether we should look inwards to review what we do before we look outwards, or whether the two go hand in hand.
- What we do that saps our energies and makes achieving our goals more difficult.
- The quality of worship and the sometimes variable quality of preaching in particular.
- What we offer spiritually.
- Whether we should start some more home groups.

One outcome was the need to develop a short statement of who we are and what we want to be. This could be then used as a way of assessing how well we measure up to our own aspirations.

One initiative is that the church will be open on Thursday afternoons

starting on 3rd September. There will be a short 'meditative' service at 12.30pm followed by 'open house' when the church will be open to all comers. Lodge Bros & Wickenden (the undertakers across the road from the church) have agreed to sponsor tea & coffee and will let their clients know that the church will be open for them to come in for a chat and some support.

Incidentally, this year's bereavement/memorial service will be on Sunday 6th December and we will again hold the 2 minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday outside the front of the church.

Whilst on the subject of services, as you will already know, the service pattern for the coming Methodist year starting in September will be based on 'We Make the Road by Walking' by Brian McLaren. Rachel Bending will ensure that preachers planned for Kingsdown are happy to base their services on material from this book. In addition, Rachel suggested that the 'nativity' service this year be more broadly based around the structure of a pantomime. All user groups, particularly those for children would

be invited to attend. The meeting decided to take up this suggestion.

On more mundane matters, Rob Hutchings made his last report as church treasurer. Happily, church finances are in a healthy state so he was able to sign off on a 'high note'. The meeting confirmed Derek Matthews as the new treasurer and thanked Rob for his 15 years of service as treasurer.

During the Summer, the hall annexe will be redecorated. The meeting also agreed that the hall floor should be thoroughly cleaned and re-sealed. By the time you read this, both will have been completed!

Adverts have been placed to find a new organist to replace Greg Lillis who moved to Bournemouth in May. In addition, Lodge Bros have given us a list of organists they use for funerals, although as it turns out these already play regularly on Sundays. Thus far, our efforts have been unsuccessful, but we will keep trying. In the meantime, Gerald Barton will continue standing in and Errol Hui has agreed to play some Sundays when he is available. This is not a long-term solution however, as Gerald's hand problems mean he cannot offer to be our regular organist.

Rachel Bending suggested that we aim to hold a church social event roughly once a quarter and events were proposed as follows:-

- Garden Party at the manse: 20th September
- Barn Dance: 17th October - Rachel would be 'caller' and Tom would provide the band. Boys Brigade, Guides and their families would be invited.
- Possible event at Christmas
- Possible event on Shrove Tuesday (pancake party)

The centenary of King's Hall will be in 2016, although there was little chance that the redevelopment of the building would be completed by then. Rachel Bending is working with the congregation on a series of events including an exhibition to include memories from members. A venue near to King's Hall is required. Attendance at the King's Hall Class Meeting is currently about 8 and 30+ for the afternoon (Urdu speaking) congregation.

The next Church Council meetings are planned for 17th September and 1st December.

Gerald Barton
Church Secretary

BOOK FAIR



Books **Cakes** **Bric-a-Brac**
Traidcraft

Saturday 26th
September

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Methodist
relief and
development



Book Fair

Saturday, 26 September



Methodist
relief and
development

with various stalls.

Proceeds for '**All We Can**'.

Please put this date in your diary and consider if you might make a contribution to the cake stall, or perhaps have any unused toiletries or other unwanted presents which might be suitable for sale on the bric-a-brac stall.

Offers of help on the day would also be appreciated by Ruby Warne, and Pam and Alan Smith.

Rare Bible Found

A rare 400-year-old Bible worth about £50,000 has been discovered in a Lancashire village church. Printed in 1611 and known as the "Great She Bible", it is one of the earliest known copies of the King James Version (KJV) of the Christian holy book.



The Reverend Anderson Jeremiah and the Reverend Alexander Baker found the old book following their appointment at the church last August. It is called a "She Bible" because Chapter 3, Verse 15 of the Book of Ruth mistakenly reads: "She went into the city".

Thought to be typographical mistake, this verse was changed from another KJV edition which said "He". Only a handful of the "She Bibles" still exist. Oxford and Cambridge Universities have one, as do Salisbury, Exeter and Durham cathedrals.

People are funny creatures; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS



1. CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 2015

£3,203.57 - our total for Christian Aid Week and an excellent result. The total includes £344.00 raised by Anna Church on the 'Circle the City' walk. House-to-House collecting went exceptionally well - a small increase over 2014.

This is now the only time during the year that we go out to the local community. We often tell them we're from Kingsdown and since we tend to collect in the usual roads (just 14 of us this year) it's good to be recognised and have a chat!

My sincere thanks to those who helped in any way: House-to-House collecting - Flag Day - Book Fair - setting up stalls, etc.

PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES - CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2016

THE WEEK	15-22 MAY 2016
CIRCLE THE CITY	22 MAY 2016
BOOK FAIR/STALLS	7 MAY 2016
FLAG DAY	21 MAY 2016.

2. ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK RICHMOND PARK 26 SEPTEMBER 2015

This year the Autumn walk will take place on Saturday 26 September. This is an event for all the family walking at your own pace in beautiful autumnal surroundings. You will also have an opportunity to explore Christian Aid's Harvest stories and discover how the women in Mali are growing market gardens to secure a more independent and brighter future for themselves and their community. You will meet as usual before the walk in the Cambrian Centre for prayers.

Richmond Park is the biggest enclosed space in London and is home to the beautiful Isabella Plantation, Pembroke Lodge and herds of red and fallow deer.

Sponsorship forms will be distributed this weekend, and I shall collect 'packs' with the routes, etc (you have a choice of 3 or 6 miles) from the Christian Aid HQ next week.

3. CHRISTIAN AID - CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- a) City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER at 7 pm. An evening of carols, gospel music and poetry.
- b) I understand another Carol Service will be held at St. Mary's, Kensington High Street. Last year this was followed by a Fair Trade reception. The event has still to be finalised.

4. PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

MOBILE PHONES - INK JETS - STEPS - SOCKS, SPECS STILL NEEDED.

HARVEST BARN DANCE

17TH OCTOBER 2015, 7PM



KINGSDOWN METHODIST CHURCH HALL

COME AND DANCE
TO THE MUSIC OF ALI, COLIN & THOMAS
DANCES EXPLAINED BY RACHEL

ALL WELCOME
NO EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE NEEDED



**KINGSDOWN CLUB PROGRAMME
FOR
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER**

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF KINGSDOWN AVENUE/ NORTHFIELD AVENUE FROM 2.00 TO 4.00 PM. TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT. PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS (TEL.NO. 0208 567 4205) FOR DETAILS.

8th SEPTEMBER

PIANO PLAYTIME WITH ROB CUNNINGTON

22nd SEPTEMBER

A talk by THE REV PETER CATFORD

6th OCTOBER

MUSIC and ANECDOTES with GRAHAM

20th OCTOBER

A BINGO and QUIZ AFTERNOON

3rd NOVEMBER

ENTERTAINMENT with BETTY and GLADYS

17th NOVEMBER

ENTERTAINMENT with LYNDA SILK

1st DECEMBER

A TALK by JANET SMITH

15th DECEMBER

THE CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY - DAVE ENTERTAINS

THEN NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS ON THE 6th JANUARY 2016



Methodist
relief and
development

Displaced and in need of refuge

All We Can traces its roots back to the 1940s, when Methodist minister Henry Carter felt the church had a responsibility to respond to the refugee crisis in Europe. Since then we have continued to help vulnerable people, including refugees, in some of the world's poorest communities. Please join with us this month to pray for the people in our world who are displaced and in need of refuge.



Pray for All We Can's response to the Syrian refugee crisis. We are working through our partners Medair and the ACT Alliance to support Syrian refugees and their host communities in Jordan.

Pray for All We Can's partner SOEDC in Burundi which helps people who have returned to their homes after the 12-year civil war.

Pray for All We Can's partner Act Alliance in Malawi. In January serious flooding led to nearly one million people being displaced.

Pray for the communities in our world affected by situations which can lead to displacement, such as conflict, food and economic insecurity, and climate change.

Pray for the international community's response to refugees, that it is one of compassion, where secure places are offered and people are given the help they need.

Pray for strength, safety and comfort for people who are displaced and in need of refuge.

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books Cakes Gifts
Bric-a-Brac Raffle

**Saturday 31st
October**

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:



MHA Book Fair

Early notice that there will be a book fair in aid of Methodist Homes on Saturday October 31st in the church hall with the usual stalls.



There will be books, cakes, gifts, bric-a-brac and a raffle. Maybe you will pick up a Christmas gift here for someone special?

Now's your chance to support the worthwhile charity of Methodist Homes, not forgetting that Ealing Trinity Circuit in association with MHA has launched a Live At Home scheme designed for all elderly people in the borough. See you there!

Olwen Britton

My Placement with West London Citizens

Though Ealing Trinity Circuit joined West London Citizens in 2013, my involvement began at the beginning of 2014 when I met with Jasper, an organiser. I was interested in doing the 2-day training leadership course that Citizens offered. Instead I found myself becoming involved in the Local Election Accountability Assembly. About the same time, I found out that I hadn't been successful in candidating to be a Methodist minister and wouldn't be going forward for ministerial training. I wasn't sure what to do. I didn't feel that candidating was over for me; it still felt important but I couldn't reapply for a year at least so I needed something that would give me some practical training, some skills, some way of developing me. It was then that I heard about a two year part-time master's course in Community Organising run by Queen Mary University. I successfully applied for the course with some help with funding from the circuit.

The main attraction of the course for me was that it offered practical training and experience through a five month placement with Citizens UK. My placement was based in Northolt and Greenford Methodist Churches with the aim of getting a team of people to make a difference around an issue the

churches felt strongly about. My first step was to hold about thirty one-to-one conversations with people from both churches mainly at their homes but also at work, church, cafe and even on the tube. I then invited people from the churches to a Sanctuary Vigil at William Perkins School. The purpose vigil was to ask Steve Pound MP to commit to ending indefinite detention for asylum seekers. The evening started with song, a stirring story from someone who had been detained indefinitely, and Steve Pound being asked if he would commit to work with Citizens to end this atrocity. Then the group formed a circle outside holding candles with candles in the centre laid out in the shape of the hands of a clock as we stood in silence waiting with those who were being detained. Nine people from Ealing Trinity Circuit were present at the vigil.

From those who came to the vigil and others from the church, we formed a team to take action – not on immigration but on the issue chosen by the group: homelessness. We met several times as a team to plan and listened to people in the churches and those who had been homeless to get a better idea of what we could do. After speaking to Eric, a Big Issue Seller, we decided that one of the ways we could help would be to buy

insulated mugs to give to people who were homeless so that they could keep soup/a hot drink with them during the day. The team went back to the churches to raise money to buy mugs aiming for £25 from each church and raised £61. Since collecting the money, we have also had two extra mugs donated. We hope to give the mugs to Father Gerard at St Anselm's Church, Southall, who works with the homeless.

My placement officially ended in May when I went with a group of people from Northolt and Greenford to the General Election Accountability Assembly on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May at Westminster Central Hall. 2,200 people packed the hall for a program that included singing, music, a history lesson, poetry, and personal stories. The main part of the program was when the three main political party leaders were asked whether they would work with Citizens UK to make a difference on four issues: improved social care, end to indefinite detention, a fairer credit system and living wage. It wasn't just about making demands; the work that politicians had already done with Citizens was recognised and they were thanked. Also key leaders that have played a part in Citizens UK were recognised and they literally handed batons to the Citizens UK

Young Leaders to acknowledge their role in organising. It wasn't all about the people at the front particularly when representatives from the alliances (groups set up by Citizens in different areas of the country) asked for people from their alliance 'to stand up and be counted'. West London Citizens were well represented, as was Ealing Trinity Circuit with seven people.

Even though my placement finished in May, I hope to continue working with the team and with others around the circuit. For London Citizens the next big event will be Thursday 28 April 2016 6-8.30pm at The Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, where 6,000 people will be packed hold to account the mayoral candidates. West London Citizens have started a listening campaign to find out problems people are having around housing to take to this event.

From just two churches thirty three people have got involved in the organising process with thirteen taking part in actions. How much more could we achieve if all the churches from the circuit got involved? It is time we stood up and were counted.

Rebecca Catford

(This report together with pictures is also in the current issue of In-Touch)

FLOOR REJUVENATED!!!!

The Hall at Kingsdown has been cleaned and coated with a new surface to take the wear and tear it gets during the year. The Parquet blocks have come back to life. Let's try and keep it that way.



Reaping

*I've been sown in the sands of time,
Where rain will not shake the line,
Where innocence remains pure,
If it can but endure!*

*I've been planted by the hand of God
In this unfriendly sod,
Where moisture will but clog
The plough - in a bog!*

*In both the reaper works in vain
For a scarcity of pain.
It's too much to hope for is a strain.
Let it rain!*

Val Elgar



**Hanwell Methodist Church
invites you to an**

all age Autumn



**Saturday 19th September
in the Church
2:30 – 5:00pm**

**Bulb planting
Children's crafts
Painting competition (look
out for the topic later)**

**FREE
admission**

Refreshments available

**Cake stall
Face painting
Harvest bee decorations
and more...**

We expect you to be there!

*For more information about our Church and the events
we have planned, please visit our Church website
www.hanwellmethodist.info*

Hanwell Methodist Church
presents a

Harvest Concert

Saturday 3rd October
in the Church at 7:30pm

The concert will feature Gareth Knox playing classical and traditional tunes on the piano. The second half of the evening will include favourite musical pieces chosen by the audience.

Please contact Michael in advance to find out how to get your favourite piece of music played.

admission £2
including refreshments

Tickets are available from
Michael on 07951 096 793
m_pidoux@yahoo.co.uk
or Gill on (020) 8567 4018



*There will be a retiring collection for the
Methodist Relief and Development Fund,
All We Can*

*For more information about our Church and the events
we have planned, please visit our Church website
www.hanwellmethodist.info*

The reality of Jesus

Overwhelmed by the reality of Jesus
life changes,
begins afresh
in an altogether different dimension.

Overwhelmed by the reality of Jesus
there is purpose
and energy and a calling
to leave the comfortable known-space
to go in joy and brave obedience
wherever He sends.

Overwhelmed by the risen
and real and living Lord Jesus,
everything is possible in our "Yes!"

by **Daphne Kitching**

September Prayer

Loving Father,
Please help us with all the new things September brings: a new school year, new stages of life, with children moving on or out, new challenges for many as summer gives way to autumn. Help us in this season of change to know the constant reality of Jesus. Thank you for the new life He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

by **Daphne Kitching**

To entertain some people, all you have to do is sit and listen.
Anon

How to have a more healthy heart

Gratitude can help you recover more quickly from a heart attack. So says a study by the University of California, who examined gratitude as part of an outlook that involves appreciating the positive aspects of life, and often goes hand in hand with spirituality.

It was found that people who have a life attitude of being grateful are also likely to have a better mood, better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. Researchers said they were surprised to find that gratitude accounted for such beneficial effects. As one scientist put it, "It seems that a more grateful heart is indeed a more healthy heart."

Being Logical

I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre.

But one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain too much cholesterol."

Off to school

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

Cat

I know, I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" but someday, just once I want to say, "No, it's for visitors."

Canon David Winter wonders how to describe beauty....

THE WAY I SEE IT: What is Beauty?

When we look at a landscape, mountains or lakes and describe the scene as 'beautiful', what do we actually mean? That it is pleasing to the eye? That it speaks to some inner sense of order, tranquility and peace? That it arouses in us feelings of admiration or joy? That it evokes a sense of awe?

What makes something beautiful is a very difficult question to answer, because we apply it to so many different things: a human face, a flower, a piece of music, a painting or sculpture, a sunset and even a cover-drive at cricket. Beauty is something we recognize, but can't really define. Not everything beautiful is 'pretty' (think of some of Picasso's paintings!). 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder', we say – a matter of individual taste. In that case, it's surprising that almost everyone would agree with the most common assertions of beauty, whether scenes of nature or works of art.

My own suspicion is that beauty is linked to awe. 'Awe' is the recognition of something beyond our normal experience. The dictionary defines 'awe' in terms of 'respect', and that perhaps begins to capture how we feel when we encounter beauty. This is 'beyond' us, something which we can enjoy with others without being able to analyse it. It shares something with religious or mystical experiences.

The poet John Keats attempted a definition: 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty'. There is undoubtedly a sense in which beauty speaks of truth, because surely beauty exists when great concepts of light and shade, form and contour, colour and context - truths of our human experience - work perfectly together.

The opposite of truth is falsehood, and there is nothing false about a thing of beauty. The Bible speaks of the 'beauty of holiness'. Could it be that there is also a 'holiness of beauty'? For those who believe in a Creator God, there is something truly awesome about the fact that the created world is so indescribably beautiful.

Is a snow-flake an evolutionary accident? Or a starry night? Or an open rose in the garden? Why does God bother making things beautiful? It's an intriguing question! Perhaps, like us, He simply enjoys it.

God's Answer to You

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: It's impossible.

God says: All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

You say: Nobody really loves me.

God says: I love you. (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

You say: I can't go on.

God says: My grace is sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: I can't figure things out.

God says: I will direct your steps. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: I can't do it.

God says: You can do all things. (Philippians 4:13)

You say: I'm not able.

God says: I am able. (II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: It's not worth it.

God says: It will be worth it. (Roman 8:28)

You say: I can't forgive myself.

God says: I forgive you. (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: I can't manage.

God says: I will supply all your needs. (Philippians 4:19)

You say: I'm afraid.

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear. (II Timothy 1:7)

You say: I'm always worried and frustrated.

God says: Cast all your cares on me. (I Peter 5:7)

Observations on our Christian faith

They stand best who kneel most. **Anon**

You are a Child of God. Please phone home! **Anon**

Prayer moves the hand which moves the world. **Anon**

What we know of God encourages us to trust Him in all we don't know.
Anon

Who can imagine by stretch of fancy the feelings of those who, having died in faith, wake up to enjoyment! **John Henry Newman**

The Kingdom of God is simply God's power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about. **John Main**

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.
Martin Luther King

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. **Victor Hugo**

Lord, let us not live to be useless, for Christ's sake.
John Wesley



***Read the Bible –
it will scare
the Hell out of you.***

A look back at the 2015 Conference

The President and Vice-President of the Conference The Revd Steve Wild was inducted as President and Dr Jill Barber as the Vice-President of the Conference.

The President of the Conference challenged the Church to bring one new person to faith at every chapel or congregation across the Connexion. He said "Let's take God seriously. I want to help us in the task of evangelism, to put mission on the agenda and give our churches an aim to win a person for Christ." He reminded the Conference that wherever our mission takes us, God has gone there before us.

In her inaugural address, Dr Jill Barber spoke of the "four Ps" of Methodism: Prophecy, Prayer, Passion and Protest. "Have we lost that passion for living out the gospel through social and political action?" she asked. "Is there a danger that we have privatised our faith, so that it makes us feel better as individuals, but we fail to relate it to wider community and global issues? I want to call on Methodists to get involved in local and national politics. To become a voice for change, challenging the politics of self-interest and upholding the politics of the common good."



Cregennan Lake and the northern flank of Cader Idris, North Wales.



St GILES

St Giles was a hermit, someone who lived a quiet life of prayer away from other people. His special day is 1st September and he lived in a forest near Arles in France, sometime in the 9th century.



The story goes that he had a pet deer. One day the King was hunting in the forest and shot an arrow at this deer.

When the huntsmen found the deer it was in a woodland clearing with St Giles. The saint himself was wounded by the arrow and held the deer in his arms - and all around them were the hunting dogs, silent and still as if held by an invisible power.

St Giles is the patron saint of cripples and beggars. His emblem is an arrow and in the United Kingdom there are over 150 churches dedicated to him.



WOODLAND WORDS

Can you find all these words from the forest? The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

M U S H R O O M S S
 B H M O S D I A S L
 U A O W T V K A K O
 T F D L Y S S O M O
 T N O G L F S R E T
 E I A K E Y A D G S
 R V Y C G R R E E D
 F S N A K E G W O A
 L M M R O W F O X O
 Y E R O M A C Y S T

* ant * badger * butterfly * deer *
fox * grass * holly * ivy * moss *
mushrooms * oak * snake *
sycamore * toadstools * worm *

⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘

**Did you hear about the car
with the wooden wheels and
wooden engine?**

It wooden go.

**What is the smallest ant in the
world?**

An infant.

**What do
ants take
when
they re ill?
Antibiotics.**



EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

SEPTEMBER

*(Please note that the **Circuit Picnic** planned for 6 Sep has been cancelled.)*

- Mon 7 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 8 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Piano Playtime with Rob Cunnington
Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Wed 9 20.00 pm Circuit Meeting at Hanwell
- Fri 11 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 12 10.00 am to 12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
- Wed 16 1 pm Babies & Toddlers commences (term time only)
- Thu 17 8 pm Church Council Meeting
- Sat 19 14.30-17.00 All-Age Art & Craft Day at Hanwell (free admission)
- Tue 22 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - a talk by the Rev Peter Catford
- Thu 24 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Sat 26 10.0-12.30 Book Fair at Kingsdown - with cake/bric-a-brac/
Fair Trade stalls - in aid of 'All We Can' (Methodist Charity)
Christian Aid - Richmond Park Sponsored Walk (pp13-14).

OCTOBER

- Sat 3 19.30 pm Harvest Concert at Hanwell. Tickets £2.
Also retiring collection in aid of 'All We Can'.
- Sun 11 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE
- Thu 17 Barn Dance at Kingsdown
- Tue 20 Circuit Policy Committee at Kingsdown
- Sat 31 Book Fair at Kingsdown in aid of MHA

SAT 11 NOV - NORTHFIELDS TRADERS DAY

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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.