



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

*Easter...
Christ is risen!*



March 2013

SERVICES FOR MARCH



3 Mar 10.30 Ms Rebecca Catford, MWIB
(Methodist Women in Britain Sunday)
6.30 Lent Course continues - Rev Peter Catford

10 Mar 10.30 Rev Peter Catford, Family/Parade Service
Mothering Sunday
6.30 **Circuit Service, Pitshanger**



17 Mar 10.30 Mr David Street
12.00 Worship Consultation - everyone welcome
6.00 Lent Course continues - Rev Peter Catford

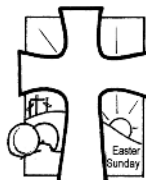
24 Mar 10.30 **Palm Sunday**
Local Arrangement -
Worship Leader: Kathleen Loveridge
6.00 Lent Course continues



28 Mar 20.00 Maundy Thursday, 8 pm Holy Communion
Service at Hanwell

29 Mar 14.30 **Good Friday**, 9.15 am Walk of Witness, meet at church
2.30 pm Meditation at the Foot of the Cross at
Kingsdown

31 Mar 08.00 **EASTER DAY** - Holy Communion, Rev Sheryl Anderson
followed by Easter Breakfast.
10.30 Rev Peter Catford, Family Worship with
Holy Communion
6.30 Rev Peter Catford, Eucumenical Service with
Ealing Green and St Mary's



The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

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Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



Dear all

As we continue to travel through the season of Lent towards Easter we continue to be bombarded by questions. Our media continually gives us images from the disasters of history and more recent times. Time and again in our own lives we encounter incidents that leave us with questions that threaten to impact our faith in God. God may seem at times to be disinterested in affairs of the world allowing hatred and destruction almost free reign. Yet we affirm weekly if not daily in our spiritual lives that God is involved intimate in a loving and creative way.

Lent is a time not to run from the hard questions but to search for God in the midst of turmoil and serenity. Yet the more we search the more questions we find and the less our answers that used to hold so true satisfy the life we are experiencing.

So we are often tempted to retreat and shy from the hard questions that are a reality in life. To do this ignores that life and faith are completely intertwined and that these questions are just as vitally a part of faith. For faith to be alive it needs to be under a continuous review and to do so we need to ask questions, not just the easy ones.

In the Lenten period we travel with Jesus through times of tough questioning.

In the wilderness,
On the mountain of transfiguration,
In the Garden of Gethsemane
The hill of Golgotha and the cross.

We see in Jesus' story how he spends time not only asking hard questions.

What am I to do?
What next?
Why now?
Where are you?

Not only does he ask but he listens for the response that comes in different ways.

Through angels caring for him after the temptations.
In an amazing experience of change, transfiguration.
In the silence of a garden, quiet inner confidence
In no answer at all just darkness

As Jesus' followers we need to have no fear of questions only complacency. For questions show openness and confidence that what we will find will reveal to us God who is the same yesterday, today and forever, who we have only just begun to get to know. The questions and their answers will bring a deepening of our understanding of God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all things and us. That is the Lenten Journey and the Easter hope beyond.

As we journey on as a community of faith seeking to find God's mission for us in this season and place let us keep our questions coming and wait for God's answers.

A POEM (*Anon - Tauranga*)

I will arise when I see the dawn
My spirit waits to see its light
This darkness has become my cloak
Its emptiness a pleasant place
I will no longer fear the nothingness
But embrace its chasm within my soul
For in the darkness I begin to see
The ebony eyes of silence.
I will find rest in this place of no feeling
Find solace in my quiet hell.
A diamond spirit still beats within
Pulsating with the rhythm of time
I know its radiance no longer shines
But I am sure the sun will rise,
Its rays will touch my spirit jewel again
And then the darkness will no longer be mine.
I will wait for you as a lover waits for evening
Again you will fill my being
And I will have this longing satisfied.

Peter Catford

KINGSDOWN BOOK FAIRS

Many thanks to all those who helped with the Recent Book Fair in aid of JMA and Network. An impressive £180 was raised.

Jill Richardson

Kingsdown Family News

The Kingsdown family were shocked to hear of the death of **Peter Swan**, son of **Mary Swan**, and brother of **Ronnie** and **Raymond**, who died by drowning in Australia whilst on holiday on 20 January 2013. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences have been extended to the whole family.

January was also marked by sadness following the death of Vic Marlow, on 24 January 2013, who was a very long-standing and respected member of Kingsdown. A celebration of Vic's life took place at Kingsdown on 1 February, the service taken by our minister, the Rev Peter Catford, attended by family, friends from near and far as well as members of our own congregation who knew Vic so well. Again heartfelt sympathy and condolences have been extended to his son **Chris**, wife **Anna** and grandson **James**. Chris' eulogy to his father is reprinted on pp. 8/9 of this magazine.

Your prayers are asked for the following people:

Luri Scrivens battling cancer;

Henry Brown suffering spinal injuries;

Geoff Clarke;

Rev Cecil Smith, very ill in hospital with pneumonia.

Adeline Elvin's husband who is very ill in hospital;

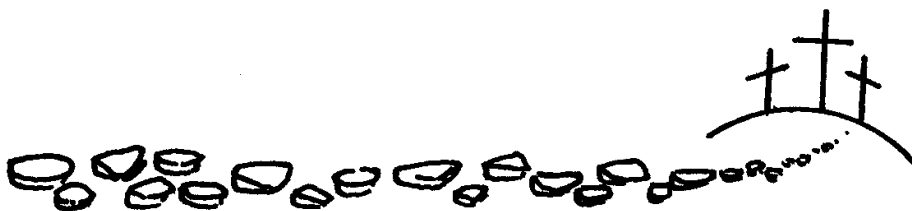
Alf Edmanson has been re-admitted to Hammersmith Hospital.

David Oates, in Intensive Care, his wife **Charlotte** and daughters **Imagen** and **Kate**.

All good wishes are sent to **Kathleen Jarett**, that a successful operation on her knee goes ahead on 18 March - its been a long wait Kathleen!

We wish **Juliet Edwards** a swift recovery following her accident involving hot soup!

It is sincerely hoped that we have not left any one out who is in need of prayer and support at this time.



Victor Albert Percy Marlow: 1921 – 2013

Vic Marlow passed away on 24th January, aged 91. He was always “Steadfast and Sure” in his Christian faith: this carried him through all of life’s challenges and allowed him to remain cheerful, enthusiastic and energetic until heart problems slowed him down at the age of 89.



Vic was born into a Methodist family and brought up beside Portobello Road in the early 1920's. (His father was a policeman, who lived “on his beat.”) He was strongly influenced by the suffering that he was surrounded by in this depressed area at that time and was motivated to campaign for social justice. He was also influenced by “taking the pledge” with The Band of Hope at the age of just 14; he promised to abstain from alcohol, gambling, cigarettes and “women of ill repute” and he never broke that promise for the following 77 years.

Victor was a “man of his word,” reliable and self-disciplined. He only took half a day's sick leave in 45 years in the army and civil service....and that was when he had an operation on an ingrowing toenail.

He was a man of high standards who was always perfectly frank and honest.... He NEVER lied. One of his favourite catchphrases was “stick to the straight and narrow.... and trust in The Lord.” He would always return to shops to pay appropriately if he had been undercharged and despised the idea of “getting something for nothing,” which underpinned his aversion to gambling. You always knew where you stood with Victor; he stood up for what he thought was just.

However, he NEVER bore a grudge; he always exemplified the Christian ethos of truly forgiving and forgetting.

Throughout his life, Victor was loyal to his family, his football team (Fulham) and to The Methodist Church. He was a member of West Ealing Methodist Church when it merged with Northfield Church to become Kingsdown in 1961 and worked in various roles within the Church Community; Youth Club leader, Church Steward, Finance Committee, Sunday School teacher, Moulin House Committee, NCH carol singing, Jumble Sale organizer.....

Following retirement, Vic moved to the South coast with his wife Beryl in 1994, returning to Ealing in 2011.

Vic was " a man of substance", who preferred action rather than words.

His best friend, Geoff Clarke wrote: "For although Vic and I differed politically, our ability to work for good in the community was strong. For over 50 years, working through Kingsdown, we shared many things; collecting on street corners, running Ichthus youth club, campaigning for Stewardship... and we were always firmly together. We always knew we could turn to each other. I respected how Vic could hold firmly to his views on drink and gambling and politics. And perhaps best of all, when day was done, we could always enjoy a good laugh together."

My dad never proselytised; never instructed. Rather, he taught by his example; constancy, devotion , consistency, community service and justice.

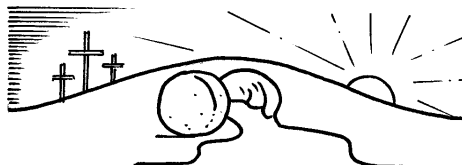
If I ever do as much for my children as my father did for me, I should be proud: and if my children ever respect me as much as I respected my Dad, I shall be blessed.

May God bless and keep you always.



Chris Marlow

I extend grateful thanks for the many messages of condolence, support and encouragement that Anna and I have received from Church friends following Victor's passing. It has been a great comfort and inspiration to know just how much he was respected by the Kingsdown and Methodist Circuit friends.



WORSHIP CONSULTATION

Many Methodist churches have a group that meets regularly to consider issues about Worship. At Kingsdown we have not had one for some time, but at their recent meeting the Church Council agreed that we needed to hold one again. Everyone who worships at Kingsdown is invited to meet at 12 noon on Sunday 17 March. The Agenda is as follows:-

1. Easter Sunday evening ecumenical service
2. Communion Services
3. The future of Sunday evening services at Kingsdown (Friends should be aware that our evening organist, Sydney Wooldridge, is standing down from those duties which he has carried out so faithfully for many years.)
4. (If time allows) Healing Services

If you have something to say on any of these topics, please join us.

Peter Catford

Some Property Matters

Reflecting on Rekha's article in the last edition, it appears that some people at Kingsdown are unaware of how many individuals and groups use our premises either occasionally or every week. A spreadsheet showing the regular use of different rooms has been placed on the notice boards in the Church and Hall foyers, and the Church foyer also has a calendar of occasional bookings. If you want to use the premises at any time, please consult this information and then book your event through our Lettings Manager on 020 8579 4056.

Except in an emergency or by invitation, please do not disturb any group which is using the premises, and please remember this is particularly important for playgroup sessions. Ofsted rules are particularly inflexible about 'strangers on the premises when very young children are at pre-school sessions, and in this context we all count as strangers.

Hazel is currently attempting to make an accurate schedule of the keys held by church members and Users groups. If she has not already approached you, please try to talk with her as soon as possible, showing her the church keys that are in your possession.

Kath Jarrett has taken on responsibility for our main kitchen, and for supervision of the cleaners. Anyone wishing to use the kitchen is encouraged

to consult Kath about what equipment is available and where it is kept, as well as checking for other activities that might be affected by their plans.

Our cleaners try hard to work around the many activities that are arranged on the premises. If you are holding a one-off event, or altering a regular commitment, please ensure that Kath is made aware of this, so that she can negotiate with the cleaners to the advantage of us all.

Similarly, if there are problems with the cleaning schedule, or with the cleanliness of any part of the premises, please tell Kath about it. Improvements can be made – but only if the right person is made aware of the problem.

Peter Catford - on behalf of the Property Committee

From the Church Council

The most recent Church Council meeting was held on 31st January 2013.

Readers of the 'Messenger' will recall that discussions have been taking place with Northfields Surgery for the possible use of the Dome Room and Classroom 3. However, the partners in the Surgery have now indicated that they have been unable to come up with a financially viable scheme for leasing the two rooms, and therefore that the proposed scheme cannot go forward. The partners expressed their appreciation and thanks to Kingsdown for our interest in the scheme.

A joint Kingsdown – Bless Community Church Youth Fellowship has been meeting in the upper level of the foyer since the start of this month. Discussions on how we might collaborate further with Bless Community Church will take place soon – at the time of the meeting Peter Catford was awaiting confirmation of a date to get together from Bless. You can find out a bit more about Bless Community Church at www.blesscc.org.

The Council endorsed the proposal from the World Service & Mission Committee that the Charity of the Year for 2013/14 should be WorkAid. This charity collects and refurbishes unwanted tools so that disadvantaged people can learn a trade and earn a living. Find out more about WorkAid at www.workaid.org.

The meeting acknowledged the significant contribution to the life of the church and to property matters in particular made by Ken Pennells and Harold and Lynda Blackburn. With Ken's passing and Harold and Lynda's move to Ripon,

a significant proportion of the meeting was taken up with outlining arrangements to cover property-related issues over the coming months. These had been determined at the joint Property and Finance Committee meeting the evening before (30th January) and are as follows:-

- i. Lettings – Hazel Pennells will act as first point of contact for potential hirers.
- ii. Key check to identify everyone who has keys to the building – Hazel Pennells and Janet Smith
- iii. Contracts – Dave Lewis
- iv. Emergency keyholders (for contact by the police etc)– Derek Matthews and Kevin Lovell
- v. First point of contact for users of the building – a small group of people would be required to cover this – volunteers are requested!
- vi. Handover of papers etc from Harold Blackburn – Dave Lewis and Janet Smith. Noted that all questions needing answering by Harold should be directed through Dave and Janet. It is hoped that once handed over, manuals etc relating to the building can be kept easily accessible in the minister's vestry.
- vii. Billing and invoices – Rob Hutchings
- viii. Gift Aid – Jane Hutchings
- ix. Foyer heating – Dave Lewis to follow up.
- X. Supervision of cleaners – Kath Jarrett.

The Circuit Property Secretary, Bill Cocking has pointed out that a quinquennial survey of the building is long overdue - it had been put off on the grounds that the redevelopment would encompass any work required. A survey will now be put in hand and, once completed, a list of necessary maintenance and repair work will be drawn up. Also, please note that a 'Work Book' has been placed in the church foyer. Items around the building needing attention should be noted in this book (anyone can do this, but please don't use the book to make complaints). Individual Property Stewards will action items listed. A similar book will be placed in the hall area.

As you will have seen in the weekly News-sheet, the building at King's Hall closed with effect from 31st January as it was not possible to obtain insurance for its continued use. The principal problems relate to the condition of the electrical wiring although there is also a significant general maintenance backlog. The two congregations that meet at King's Hall need to find suitable alternative accommodation for an extended period. David Street (Circuit Treasurer) requested that we hold in our prayers both congregations, their

ministers dealing with the situation (Jen Smith, Chrissie Howe and Richard Goldstraw), and the tenants who have had to vacate the building.

The congregation will be invited to join a Worship Consultation (to include lunch) following the morning service on 17th March. Principal topics for discussion will be the way Holy Communion is conducted and the future of the evening service. In addition, the Council formally agreed that during Lent a series of Bible studies (to be led by Peter Catford) would be held in place of the evening service. Sessions will start at 6.00pm with tea/coffee followed by a short period of worship then the Bible study.

Holy Week services will be as follows:-

Maundy Thursday service to be held at Hanwell at 8.00pm

Good Friday at 2.30pm at Kingsdown

Easter morning early Holy Communion at 8.00am to be led by Rev Sheryl Anderson and followed by breakfast

Easter Morning Holy Communion at 10.30am to be led by Peter Catford.

There will also be an ecumenical united service at Kingsdown with Ealing Green and St Mary's at 6.30pm on Easter Sunday.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on 6th June and the Annual General Church Meeting will be held on 14th April after the morning service.

Gerald Barton, Secretary to Church Council



**CLOCKS GO
FORWARD ON
31 MARCH 2013**

**CLOCKS GO BACK
27 OCTOBER
2013**

Charity of the Year

Kingsdown's Charity of the Year 2012/13 is Ealing Street Pastors Initiative and our third and final fundraising event will be a book fair with stalls and raffle on Saturday March 9th.



Ealing Street Pastors is part of a movement started by Reverend Les Isaacs in 2003 in Brixton in which teams went out to help people as a response to the high levels of crime in the area. The teams go out in groups of four in the Ealing borough on Friday and Saturday nights from about 10.45 to 4am, and are supported during this time by prayer pastors at the church bases. The pastors form an 'urban trinity' involving co-operation between the local churches, the local authority and the police.

The Street Pastors have had a positive effect right across the borough, with streets in Acton quieter at night, and crime drastically reduced in Acton High Street while the teams are patrolling. We have already raised £551.22p towards the purchase of a scanner-printer, printer ink and paper, a laminator and first aid kits.

I hope you will support this event and raise more money for this very worthy cause.

Thank you very much.

Olwen Britton.



THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

SOCKS

Very many thanks for the socks - they are needed urgently, and if anyone has any warm scarves these too will be gratefully received.

POSTAGE STAMPS

I have been told that the LEPROSY MISSION raised over £107,000.00 for postage stamps last year! So this is so very worth while.

Ruby Warne

Pitshanger

Centenary Celebrations

March 9th & 10th 2013

We shall be celebrating our centenary this year and this will take the form of a "THANK YOU IN FLOWERS" Flower Festival over two days, Saturday, 9th March and Sunday, 10th March 2013.

The Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing, Councillor Mohammad Aslam will open the Festival at 11am on Saturday, 9th March and besides the floral displays we shall have on view historical items and examples of present day activities in the church.

In the evening at 7 pm there will be a concert by the Brentham Ladies Choir, the Margaret Dance Academy and Kollidoscope (Puppets for Jesus). There will be no charge but donations welcomed.

On Sunday, 10th March, Mothering Sunday, one of our former Ministers, Rev. Gerald Gardiner will conduct morning worship at 10.30 am and in the evening we shall have "Songs of Praise", including a hymn for each decade of the church's existence, with our Circuit Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jennifer Smith and Rev. Suva Catford, our present Minister.

Also on the Sunday you are invited to a sandwich lunch - please can you let Margaret Hunter know by 31st January latest if you are able to join us, in writing to 15 Lynwood Road, Ealing, London W5 1JQ.

A lunch donation plate will be available on the day and all contributions will be much appreciated. Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) will be on offer throughout the Festival.

We very much hope you will be able to join us at some point in the weekend and look forward to seeing you.

BOOK FAIR



Books - Cakes - Bric-a-Brac - Raffle

Saturday 9th March

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence,

All proceeds to:

Kingsdown's Charity of the Year:

'Ealing Street Pastors'

COMPASSION SERVICE SOCIETY OF INDIA

Dear Friends at Kingsdown

Thank you for your ongoing support in knitting the Hats. What a great joy it is to be able to take these to India and make a difference to children and families. It just shows how much people in the UK care.

We also share the love of Jesus by telling bible stories in the schools in the villages and children's clubs. They are so keen to learn.

We were able to buy 200 bibles to share - each family had one and can read in their homes. A new school is being built for 8+-year olds with Christian teachers, and a Health Centre for 2013.

May God richly bless you all.

Pam Frost (Trustee)

(This letter and photos of the children in their hats are on display in the Foyer. Submitted by Evelyn Sangster.)

“Prodigal”– Thanks

I thought you would like to know that my latest musical “Prodigal” raised just over £1000 in ticket sales for the two shows so I am really pleased about that.

I said thank you to a few people after the Saturday night show but to be honest, I was a bit overwhelmed and didn’t say everything I wanted to so here it is in writing.

Thank you to:

The Cast

This was such a great team of people and they put up with the last minute re-writes, extra scenes and constant late night rehearsals, especially in the last week. Thank you so much for bringing my vision to life. There are not many greater pleasures than seeing your work performed by really talented people

The Band

Matt Plews has been with me since the first show and I think you’ll agree his drums were pretty amazing. The drum solo at the beginning of Act 2 blew me away every time I heard it. He also produced the show sorting out lettings of the hall and all sorts of stuff.

And this year, it was an absolute honour that I had Andrew Jaimeson on the flute. He is a true genius because as most of you know, I can’t really write music in the traditional sense, but he just came along and picked it up and added such a depth to the songs

The Backstage Crew

Aidan and Sanaam were brilliant. I gave them a difficult job with all the different areas to think about but they worked so hard. Especially my friend Aidan, who worked till the early hours of the morning with me on a number of occasions, helping me with all the technical aspects, making sense of what I wanted and then working like a horse

The People Of Kingsdown

Thank you for all your support. Not only in coming to the shows but for your words of encouragement and appreciation. It means such a lot to me and it’s been a great pleasure to be able to raise money for this Church in this way

Ken Pennells

One of our Church greats, Ken Pennells died while we were putting this show together. He was such a source of encouragement to me and came to other productions that I was in. I knew instantly that this musical had to be dedicated to his memory. If he had been at the shows, I know he would have been proud of his grandson Matt and I know he wouldn't have left without saying well done to me

Vic Marlow

Just a few weeks after we lost Ken another Church great, Vic Marlow, died. A week never went by when he didn't come and talk to me and always seemed genuinely interested in what I was up to. I knew I had to dedicate one of the songs to his memory and as he was a man of great faith, I decided it had to be the prayer song which incorporated the Lord's Prayer. I hope he would have liked that

Hazel Pennells and Janet Smith

In recent weeks, I seemed to have bothered these two people constantly, asking about the hall and when it was free and they never lost their patience with me. Mind you, Janet says I will have to take her to dinner as a proper thank you. Obviously she is a beauty, but I don't know yet if that excites me or scares me !!

Tony Plews

He printed the tickets and posters. I gave him an outline of the story and he came up with the design, which was spot on. I say it every year but he is truly my guide and mentor. An inspirational man who has known me since I was tiny but has never treated me like a child, only as a friend

Violet Cordon

I hope you enjoyed your refreshments during the interval. If it was down to me, they wouldn't have happened because I always forget and it is always Violet who reminds me and tells me not to worry as she will organise it.

Alan Smith

Seriously, this man is a legend ! When we started rehearsals we had no light on the stage and he made it happen. In fact, he gave us so much more but because I was so disorganised, we didn't get to do a full tech run and use the lights in all their glory. But thank you Alan, for taking a whole precious Saturday out to work with us.

Mark Tobias

And this man is a genius. I simply told him what I wanted and he just told me he would create it. I mean, honestly...he BUILT the set. I have told him time and time again how grateful I am but I want everyone to know that he was responsible for the different levels you saw on stage

Jill Richardson

Every year, Jill helps with chaperoning and this year she did it again, giving up precious Sunday afternoons

June Thompson

This is one big thank you that I have to make. Three years ago, she told me I should write something and that led to me coming up with "Plus One". I would probably never have done that if she hadn't suggested it and then there probably wouldn't have been "Happily Ever After?" or "Prodigal". The cast seriously ADORED her and so do I.

Tom Cheriyan

Obviously, this musical is about a father and son relationship and I just want it on record that MY dad is amazing. Especially through this project. He has taken on so much for me – making calls, looking after the box office, staying at the hall with me late into the night as I tried to make sense of all the technical stuff, putting in light bulbs even though he has a slight fear of heights, printing off scripts, listening to my songs, always encouraging me and never complaining when I ask him yet again for something more.

Dad, I think you are FANTASTIC! I'm so lucky to have you as my role model.

Jonathan Cheriyan



Love is blind. Your mother started loving you before she ever saw your face.

- Anon

The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed but the mother, never. The mother is absolutely new. -

Anon

Gift of God Day- 2 Feb 2013-Feedback

On 2 February, seventeen of us gathered at Kingsdown for our first Gift of God Day event.

The day's chief focus was an exploration of 'The gift of God' concept, which basically embraces the skills that we all have, that can be used to enhance our interrelationships with one another through mutual respect and grace. Its intent was to recognise and declare our preparedness to use our skills within our church, community and beyond, through our love for one another, because we believe that our gifts are God given.

The Day's program, included periods of reflection and discussion, group work, videos- including 'The 2012 Olympic Torch Run'; Presentation of the Form that members have been invited to complete; An Agape meal; An interview with Peter Catford by Kathleen Loveridge on his life, professional and creative skills that have underpinned his Spiritual Journey and a Poem.

The following are some of the positive comments from the Feedback Session from the Group:

'An enjoyable day spent talking, listening and as a group sharing feelings and experiences. We talked about what our faith meant to us; Lunch was good; we reflected on the difficult times in our lives and how we were able to overcome these, which is not something we do much.

Time, space and opportunity to chat was good; Chatting forum was structured and Guidelines helpful; Enjoyed incorporating a meal; Timing good- not taking all afternoon; Getting to know people; Enjoyed worship; Didn't cost much as we all brought food.

The Agape meal was very good; The button exercise related to people's personal journeys; The variety in the program was extremely well done; The interview with Peter and Kathleen, showing Peter's journey, was well presented and gave much food for thought; Singing was very good- Gift of Music! The gathering was of a group of people, willing to share fellowship together; God's was in this place!

Overall the feedback was positive; nevertheless, some people thought that the day's event was not what they expected! i.e. there was an expectation that there might have been more concentration on the skills element. It is estimated that a second day will be planned- probably post Easter, when it is hoped that more people will be able to attend.

Should this group wish to attend a second time, this would be a positive step, especially as it was considered that more time could have been spent on Skills. In the meantime, members who have completed their Forms can return these to either Sybil or me and more forms will be made available to people who do not already have one and wish to complete it.

For those individuals who might be unsure about completing their forms, they could bring theirs to the second day's event, when they will be enabled to do so, as there will be more time spent on discussion of the three skills area: - Life, creative and professional.

It is anticipated that the collated skills will be completed by the end of summer and will ultimately be used as an essential Kingsdown resource.

Peter, Sybil and I send our profound thanks to all who participated in what has turned out to be a commendable day.

Blossom Jackson

Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement - I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

Attitude

I said I have a can-do attitude...I never said I had a will-do attitude.

Sermon

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK BITE BACK AT HUNGER



Earlier this week, I received the Christian Aid Week materials for Christian Aid Week 2013! May will soon be here and there is so much to prepare!

This year the theme is "BITE BACK AT HUNGER" and we shall draw on examples of Christian Aid's work in three countries - Bolivia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. All three stories focus on how, if certain things are done, communities can grow enough food; so, Christian Aid is helping communities to BITE BACK AT HUNGER through the lens of land rites in Bolivia, new Technology in Kenya, and innovative agriculture in Zimbabwe.

Our Christian Aid Service at Kingsdown will be held on Sunday, 5 May, and Dr Anita Oji will lead our worship. The Annual Fair will be held on Saturday, 11 May, and House-to-house collecting will commence on Monday 13 May until Saturday 18 May. I do hope all those who have collected in previous years will do so again. It isn't easy - it is a challenge to all of us, and as I have said on many occasions, it is the **ONLY** time we go to the public using the word Christian. But it can be very rewarding - we meet some lovely people and many want a chat. If you haven't tried House-to-house collecting before why not try this year? Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

FLAG DAY - Saturday 18 May- as usual we shall collect at Northfields and West Ealing.

CIRCLE THE CITY - Sunday 19 May - Anna will be inviting you to sponsor her for this event.

During next month, I hope to contact all Christian Aid supporters.

A REMINDER

Sunday, 5 May CA Sunday - Dr Anita Oji
Saturday, 11 May CA Fair
Monday, 13 May to Saturday 18 - House-to-house collecting
Saturday, 18 May CA Flag Day
Sunday, 19 May Circle the City.

Elsewhere in this Messenger you will find a Christian Aid Church Magazine article: **BOLIVIA.**

Ruby Warne



'We work together, we share the land'



This Christian Aid Week, we're standing with poor communities to help them bite back at hunger.

If a community has land to live on and farm, it can provide enough food for its people. In the Beni region of Bolivia, one community faces a much more secure future, thanks to a Christian Aid partner organisation helping them acquire land rights, previously under dispute for decades.

When Elmy Ymarnarlico lists the things that she is most proud of, her woolless sheep and chickens come in close to the top. But it is the sense of ownership of her homeland that has really changed Elmy's life.

Elmy lives in the community of Alta Gracia, deep in the Bolivian rainforest. But despite making up the majority of the population, indigenous communities like Elmy's have struggled for years to have reliable access to their own land.

Threats and intimidation from prospective landlords were common, and many fathers and young people left to search for work elsewhere because they couldn't make a living from their land. This left families to struggle with the other perils of drought, floods, forest fires and hunger.

Christian Aid partner Centre for Research and Training of Peasants (CIPCA) has since helped to secure land for more than 1,000 families.

CIPCA has also given the community training in crop diversification and how to improve their harvests. It has provided woolless sheep to breed from, sell on and eat, and chickens to produce eggs to eat and sell.

Now the men can stay and farm their own land without the threat of cattle ranchers and big businesses taking it, and people like Elmy can provide more nutritious diets for their families.

There is now a future for young people, too. 'We are now the owners of our land... we work the land together, we share the land,' Elmy explains.

The community of Alta Gracia has also discovered the value of the wild cocoa trees around them, thanks to CIPCA. Owned by the whole community, the trees are now lovingly looked after. Locals work in protective clothing provided by CIPCA, and CIPCA buys the cocoa from them for a fair price.

'CIPCA helped so much,' Elmy says. 'It has got people inspired to look after, protect and get the best from the cocoa trees.'

Key costing

£125 could provide one male and two female woolless sheep to a community in Bolivia, providing them with meat when food is scarce and income when lambs are sold.

One in eight people in the world are desperate for food. Bite back at hunger and show your support for Christian Aid Week (12-18 May) at www.caweeek.org/article

How Monsoon and Christian Aid are helping revive Afghanistan's silk industry

What has been called "an exciting new partnership," between the high street retailer Monsoon and the development agency Christian Aid, aims to help revive the 2000-year-old tradition of silk production in Afghanistan. The two year project aims to lift 1,500 women and their families out of extreme poverty, and potentially develop an international market access for silk producers in the country.

It's all down to the silkworms living in Herat, in western Afghanistan, which lies on the old Silk Road trade route. Herat has mulberry trees on which the silkworms feed. The project will provide the women with silkworms, and training to cultivate the silk cocoons. Some of them will receive looms and further training to produce silk goods, such as scarves and handkerchiefs, so that they can sell their goods in the local market. Women have historically been the backbone of the garment and textile industries in Afghanistan and this project is focused on helping widows and women-headed households by enabling them to earn their own money.

FOR YOUR INTEREST

Those of you who may have been saddened by the loss of the 'Remember' sheets, which appeared in the Messenger during the time when Kingsdown and Pitsdown had a combined issue, may be interested to know that Mary Newman has resumed writing them, and 'Remember' is now being published quarterly in 'In Touch' (another reason to pick up and read an excellent publication produced by Gerald Barton).



'OLDER PEOPLE ARE A CANOPY OF WISDOM' Campaigning in Cameroon

MRDF's partner CDVTA (Community Development Volunteers for Technical Assistance) runs an innovative project to support and empower elderly people in remote areas of North West Cameroon. They have created a network of old people's clubs and supported the development of income-generating activities.

In December last year, CDVTA organised a convention, in the regional capital Bamenda. Attended by 25,000 people from old people's clubs and community leaders from across the region as well as political and traditional leaders, the convention aimed to champion the rights of older people, present a positive image of old age, and call for the Government of Cameroon to provide better provision for the elderly. Many of the participants travelled for many hours on foot to be there.



In a keynote speech, Director of CDVTA, Francis Njuakom Nchii, spoke of his sadness seeing elderly people suffering from mistreatment, isolation, poor healthcare or being left to care for their grandchildren in old age when their children had died from HIV/AIDS: 'In my close to 17 years of committed action in support of older people in Cameroon's most remote villages, I have often seen with sorrow the human face of poverty; signs of rejection, signs of ostracism, frailness and signs of poor health on the faces of many elderly people.'

He described the vital importance of elderly people to society, observing: 'Older people are indeed a canopy of wisdom; they are the true custodians of our culture.'

He called on the country to do more to protect elderly people, in particular calling on the Government of Cameroon to put stronger policies in place to give elderly people access to subsidised healthcare, a greater role in national and local democracy, state pensions and government support in income generation.

Finally, he outlined CDVTA's work supporting older people to increase their incomes and become more aware of their rights and thanked MRDF for their support and 'the care, love and compassion that they have shown and continue to show to CDVTA and its elderly people in Cameroon.'

The Governor of North West Cameroon also gave a speech saying 'I commend CDVTA's support for older people in Cameroon. Today CDVTA has become an example to the international community. CDVTA shows us that social mobilisation for the elderly is possible and that it is possible to improve elderly livelihoods and more importantly that elderly people can work together to exercise their rights.'

The convention succeeded in raising awareness of the rights of older people in Cameroon and CDVTA will continue to lobby Cameroon's Government to provide a range of services to vulnerable elderly people including government healthcare and state pensions.

IF....

The world produces enough food for everyone, but not everyone has enough food. IF we all get together, we can make world leaders change the future.

MRDF is working together with other agencies this year to press our leaders to make four big IFs happen:

IF we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger, and help the poorest people feed themselves.

IF we stop big companies dodging taxes in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.

IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land by corporations.

IF governments and big corporations have to be honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

...THEN we can create a world with enough food for everyone. These changes will only happen IF millions of ordinary people in the UK join us in calling for change.

MRDF sees the '**Enough Food for Everyone... IF**' campaign as a valuable way of putting the spotlight on food issues in 2013, but recognises it will just be the start of ending hunger.

The egg with added 'Easter' launches 2013 campaign

Congregations, schools and individuals are being asked to support the Real Easter Egg 2013 campaign - and help change a life. Of the 80 million chocolate eggs expected to be sold in the UK this Spring, the Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade egg to explain the meaning of Easter on and in the box.



Last year stories began to emerge of people whose life had been changed after being given a Real Easter Egg. A grandmother from Oxfordshire gave an egg and explained: "Tracy saw the book that was included with the egg and wanted her mum to read the story to her... The following week Tracy attended Sunday School."

But it is not only at home that lives have been transformed. With each sale of The Real Easter Egg a donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange to support some of the poorest farmers in the world. More than £40,000 has been donated so far.

David Marshall, founder of the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said: "It is encouraging to hear many lives have been changed by people receiving a Real Easter Egg. It is proof that the events of Easter, including the death and resurrection of Jesus, have the power to open minds, change lives and offer real hope. It is also a boost for charitable giving, Fairtrade and the work of trade justice. I hope individuals will hunt out a Real Easter Egg this year."

Details on how to buy are at: www.realeasteregg.co.uk



The earth is empty
The trees, once thick with blossom
Stand dead against a bitter sky.



The streams are frozen.
But see - along the branches new buds appear
And greenness pushes through the ground unnoticed.
Spring may be slow - but will at last return

Pam Brown, b.1928

28 March Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

29 March Good Friday – the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Nigel Beeton considers prayer, “with apologies to WH Davies”, on the theme:

No Time for Prayer?

What is this life if, full of care
We have no time to spend in prayer?
No time to meet our Father, dear
And hear the words we need to hear?
No time – because we’re rushed to death
And fail to feel the Spirit’s breath?

No time – because our lives, absurd
Preclude from time spent with His word!
No time within our full employ
To know our Lord’s transcending joy?
What is this life if, full of care
We have no time to spend in prayer?

By Nigel Beeton



REPORT FOR WEST EALING TRUST MEETING

JANUARY 2013

Another year has passed and now looking forward to a New Year and a New Start. I was reminded of that passage in Isaiah at our Staff Prayers this morning *"forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!* (Is:43.18/19 NIV). It is easy to get in a rut and wonder from time to time what difference are we making in this world or with the people we work and minister to, we don't see the change we would like and it so often feels like we are going round in circles, but the eyes of faith see differently it has to be a God solution and not our own, there has to be an eternal perspective not a worldly one. We are runners in the race of life, we are all on a journey and play a small but necessary part in the great tapestry of the Kingdom, it maybe throwing one starfish at a time back into the ocean for it to survive but it is vital and meaningful for that one.

- So let us focus on the "new thing" God wants to do in the lives of those we walk with not looking back on disappointments of the past but looking ahead with hope and renewed vigour to what lies ahead.
- Let us encourage one another with the words of St Paul *"let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"*

Activities

- We were delighted with St Paul's Ridley Avenue offering to host the Christmas Party this year, it was a huge success with great hospitality, games, carols and a disco to finish the night off everyone seemed to enjoy the event.
- We plan to organise a number of special events during 2013 like the annual trip to the coast, visit to museums/art gallery, hopefully a bingo evening and the end of year Christmas party.
- We were able to take 9 people to the National Day of Prayer in Wembley Stadium as free tickets were donated to groups working with homeless people, although a long event they all seemed to be glad to be in Wembley and asked to come along.
- Friday Hub continues to run with help from St Mungos giving housing advice and other groups who may come and volunteer some help from time to time. We have invested in a dart board which adds to the choice of activities we offer on a Friday. Volunteer help is often lacking so will have to consider recruiting more help if we are to continue.
- I linked with a group called Wrap Up London this year where people donate an unwanted coat and leave at a pick up point usually a station

throughout the capital, we then received over 100 coats and were able to distribute to guests, a great idea. Also St Vincent de Paul donated over 100 packs of cold weather essentials called "Vinnie Packs" which came in very useful over the Christmas period.

Ealing Churches

- Café Church had a Day Away in October where 50 people attended a day on listening to a seminar/s on "Living a Better Life" sharing lunch and fellowship together throughout the day.
- I visited St Marys to speak on a Sunday morning in December and also a regular visit to St James.
- Invited to speak at a CMS Conference at Highleigh Conference Centre in March to speak about "Mission at the margins".
- Will be speaking at St Stephens in March also, would be good to get round some of the other churches not visited yet.
- From the last Soup Kitchen Committee meeting it seemed the right time to pursue charitable status for ESK so a sub-committee has been set up to proceed with this.
- Thanks to all the Churches who were involved in fundraising and financial donations for the refurbishment of the kitchen which now is completed.
- Thanks too to all the Churches who helped in keeping the kitchen open during the Christmas period.

Personal

- Continued involvement with the Winter Night Shelter as a volunteer and on the Steering Committee.
- Looking to visit John Robinson missionary to Thailand at Easter.

Daphne Edwards "Worker with Homeless People"
daphne.edwards@stjohnsealing.org.uk



David Livingstone, explorer and missionary, was born 200 years ago in a cotton-workers' tenement building in the mill town of Blantyre, Scotland. He died 60 years later in present-day Zambia, where his heart is buried under a mvule tree near the spot where he died. It is now the site of the Livingstone Memorial.



THE STAND IN

It's not me; I didn't do it. Is it always *someone else* when the teacher asks 'who made this mess', or Mum says 'who broke this?' And if we hadn't done it, would we offer to clean up the mess or pay for what is broken out of our pocket money? Even though it wasn't our fault and we hadn't done anything wrong?

The answer is probably 'no'. Why should we? It wasn't our fault! It wouldn't be fair! But then things often aren't fair. It wasn't fair that the crowds in Jerusalem that first Easter shouted 'release Barabbas', a convicted criminal. They could have shouted 'release Jesus' – Jesus hadn't done anything wrong after all.

Jesus told us 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends' (St John's Gospel, chapter 15, verse 13). Jesus gave up his life for us. And others have followed his pattern, like Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest in a German concentration camp took the place of another prisoner and was killed instead of him.

WHO? ME?

The answers to this Bible quiz are all words that begin with the letters **M E** ... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Was with Daniel in the lions' den? (Daniel, 3)
2. Is another name for Malta where St Paul was shipwrecked? (Acts, 28)
3. Who did Jesus call blessed, and said they would inherit the earth? (Matthew, 5)
4. Proverbs 17 says that a merry or cheerful heart is like what?
5. What were James and John doing when they first met Jesus? (Mark, 1)
6. Jesus compared the Kingdom of Heaven to yeast mixed with what? (Luke, 13)
7. King Saul's eldest daughter's name (I Samuel, 14)



When did medicine first appear in the Bible?

When God gave Moses the tablets.



1. Meshach
2. Melita
3. the meek
4. good medicine
5. mending their nets
6. three measures of flour
7. Merab

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MARCH

- Fri 1 Churches Walking Together - Meet at 10am at 182 Church Road (the manse) gentle prayer walk, followed by a soup lunch. All invited.
- Mon 4 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
Daffodil Day Service at Westminster Central Hall
- Tue 5 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Dave entertains
- Wed 6 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
- Fri 8 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 9 10.00-12.30 Book Fair with cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle.
Proceeds for Charity of the Year - Ealing Street Pastors
- Sat 9 11 am **Pitshanger Centenary Celebrations** - the Church will open for a Flower Festival and evening concert at 7 pm (p.13)
- Sun 10 **Pitshanger Centenary Celebrations**
10.30 Morning Worship Rev Gerald Gardiner
6.30 pm CIRCUIT SERVICE "Songs of Praise"
Rev Dr Jennifer Smith & Rev Suva Catford
- Tue 12 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 16 Spring Craft Day - London District Network (details in Church Foyer)
- Tue 19 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Music & a talk by Rebecca Catford

Join in Celebrating a Double Fairtrade Anniversary - 8 March

10 Years as a Fairtrade Group
5 Years as a Fairtrade Borough.



Details on

http://kingsdownmethodist.org.uk/content.php?folder_id=158

Advance Dates

5 May 2013 Christian Aid Sunday

11 May Annual Fair - Proceeds to Christian Aid