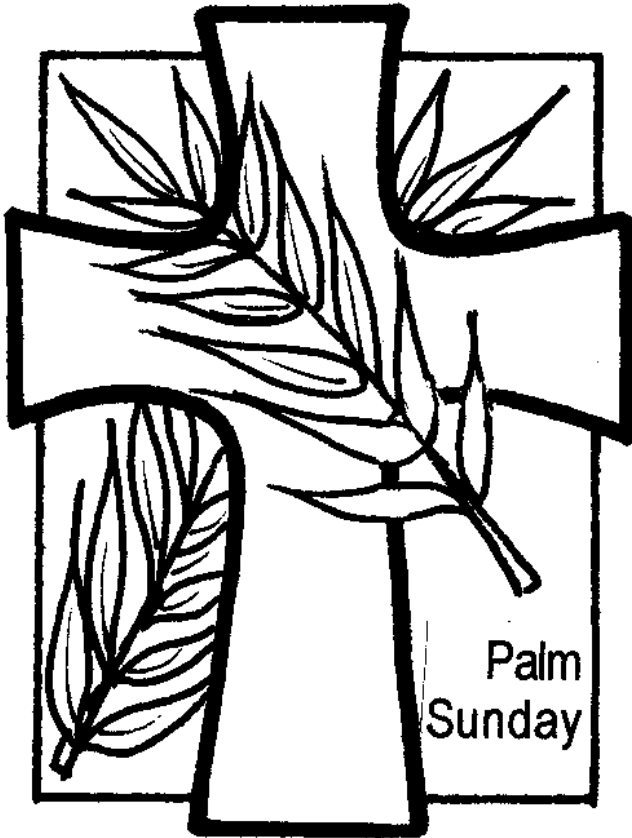




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



March 2015

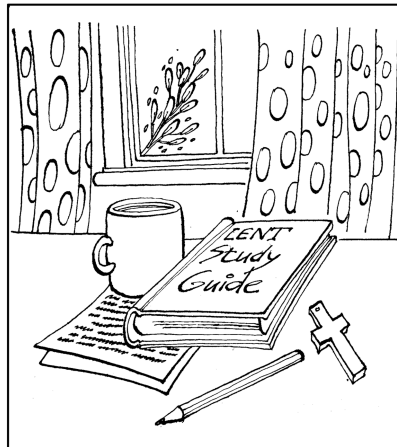


SERVICES FOR MARCH

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 Mar 10.30 | Mr David Richards |
| 8 Mar 10.30 | Rev Rachel Bending, Family/Parade Service |
| 15 Mar 10.30 | Ms Ade Benson |
| 22 Mar 10.30 | Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion |
| 29 Mar 10.30 | Rev Suva Catford, Palm Sunday |



MAUNDAY THURSDAY - 2 April
GOOD FRIDAY - 3 April
EASTER DAY - 5 April



The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2015 issue is Friday 20 March 2015

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Dear friends

As I write this Mardi Gras is over and Ash Wednesday is just past and we're beginning the season of Lent. During this season we are invited to wander, to wonder and to wait with God.

Have you ever stood in a park or garden where there are things to see in every direction and no paths to direct which way you walk? If you're like me you probably ended up wandering to something which attracted you and from there being led on in a series of seemingly random directions. Or maybe you'd prefer a more systematic approach and would work round clockwise seeing everything in turn.

We begin Lent with the central image of the wilderness as we read of Jesus being tempted. When I think of the wilderness I imagine a place with no given paths but also an infinite number of possible paths. In some ways this was also part of Jesus' temptation: he had no set way to go, no list of instructions, but was faced with the infinite possibilities of God's Kingdom. How would people see God's life in him? The possibilities were endless.

So we begin Lent with Jesus, wandering. Trying new paths. Stopping to consider where we are, where we've been and where we might go. We're asked to lift our eyes from the givenness and expectations of our lives and to take space to wander and see where we get to.

In all that, we end up wondering what might be over the next hill, why we've taken those paths, what's next, who is the God who leads us into a place of no paths and infinite paths. As we wonder we inevitably ask questions, and hopefully we sit with the questioning without needing to jump in and answer it immediately. And so we wait with God and each other.

So why not, in the midst of all your direct and directed journeys this Lent, find time to wander and wonder and wait. The circuit's Lent zones offer one way of doing so, or maybe a wander through a garden or an art exhibition might be your way.

May I wish you every blessing in your wanderings
With love

Rachel

Church Vision

In addition to last year's away day we've now had two lunches where we've talked about where we are as a church and how we might change. The second of the lunches was on 15th February. I found the discussion fascinating. We discussed our reactions to scripture passages and from those reactions began to see patterns about how we saw ourselves as a church and how we wanted vision to develop.

We then began to think about whether and where our process of being, reflecting and acting may have stalled. For me it was heartening and encouraging to realise how many skilled people there were in the room each with different experience, many of whom have used this form of reflective practice regularly.

We'd love you to join us for the **away day on 7th March** (*please see Sue Barton if you'd like to*) and for another **lunch on 19th April** (bring your own food, drinks and good company provided!)

Do please come and join us. Your contribution is important.

Rachel

FAMILY NEWS

Peter and Kathleen Loveridge have been wonderfully blessed through the prayers, messages and visits from many of their Kingsdown friends during the past few months as Peter has struggled to cope with successive bouts of pneumonia. Our thanks to you all. Most of you will be aware that Peter's mobility has declined considerably after so many weeks in hospital and he now needs additional care that cannot be provided in our own home.

By the time you read this he expects to be settled at St David's Nursing Home in Castlebar Hill where he will be pleased to receive visits from any friends who would like to come and see him.

As the Spring weather improves we hope to resume many of our usual activities and make good use of the new car which Peter has been in only once so far!

Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we face this new phase of our marriage.

Kathleen



Geoffrey Ernest Clarke

27th August 1927 – 31st December 2014

Geoff was a wonderful, "ever-helpful" friend to all who got to know him.

Committee, acted as a Property Steward for many years, organized jumble sales and sometimes acted as the Minister's "right hand man."

My father met Geoff through the Methodist Church in West Ealing (*before the amalgamation with the Moulin Memorial to form Kingsdown,*) more than 60 years ago and they became the very best of friends for more than half a century. This was strange in a way because their political leanings were poles apart and my dad was tea-total plus loved watching football; things that didn't really coincide with Geoffrey's lifestyle choices.

However, what was most important was that they passionately shared the same key causes; the Methodist Church and all it stands for and in particular the need to protect, assist and provide guidance to the most vulnerable and needy in our society.

Geoff was highly influenced and motivated to action by inspirational Methodist Ministers. During his forty years at Kingsdown, Geoff ran a Youth Club 2/3 nights per week for many years, was a vociferous member of the Church Finance

When George Howarth was the Minister at Kingsdown, he got word that a Methodist family was arriving in Northfields from Sri Lanka; Geoffrey was despatched to give them a good welcome to the area and an invitation to join us at Kingsdown. The warmth of that greeting was such that, 50 years later, a member of this family was present at the Thanksgiving Service.

He was an active supporter of Christian Aid but will forever be remembered by those of us who knew him at Kingsdown for his dedication and outstanding commitment to NCH/Action for Children; carolling, rattling tins and knocking on doors nearly every night from 1st to 24th December, for more than 30 years!

Geoff would bring the elderly to Church, visit people in nursing homes, cut the grass for those who could no longer manage their own gardens and was always hospitable; the New Year's Eve parties at Geoff and Sheila's house will never be forgotten.

The thing about Mr Clarke that made him really special was his perseverance and unfaltering willingness to assist in his own perfectionist manner. If Geoff said he was going to cut your grass, then he'd cut it, whenever necessary, until you either died, went to a nursing home, or he no longer had the earthly strength to perform the task!

It wasn't just the Church that Geoff did good deeds for. In the case of my family, he picked up my paternal grandfather from North Kensington and brought him to services at Kingsdown, transported my maternal grandma to and from the mid-week Women's Club and took me to the station, to school, to hospital appointments and on excursions.

When I had a French student staying with me but my parents had no car, Geoff picked us up at 6:30am one Saturday morning in April and took us on a whirlwind trip via Warwick Castle, Coventry Cathedral and a boat trip on the Mersey; all in one day! I'd never heard about min-cabs before the age of 11 because I just assumed that it was Geoff Clarke's vocation to ferry everyone around!

When my mother died, Geoff and Christine invited my father round for a three course meal on Thursday

evenings for five years, until dad moved back to London; EVERY Thursday.

Geoffrey never forgot my wife's or my son's birthday, or to send a Christmas greeting card to my in-laws in Armenia; Christine and Geoff have hosted them all on the South coast.

I'm sure that everyone who knew Geoff will have similar tales of good deeds to relate; he was always hospitable, helpful, energetic and cheerful (until his illness debilitated him,) and always ultra-reliable. He was a real alpha male and I'm surprised that he was a Chartered Accountant rather than a Sales Director but this was fortunate in a way because he was always able to manage his time effectively in order to have the opportunity to do so many good deeds for others.

He always did for others and always trusted in The Lord.

Geoff Clarke; a great "pal."

Chris Marlow

This is a précised version of a short eulogy delivered at Geoff Clarke's Thanksgiving Service in Rustington Methodist Church on Saturday 31st January 2015.



Lent began on Ash Wednesday 18th February

This year the Circuit Lent course is a little different. The Circuit Staff have planned together a series of reflective spaces that will travel around some of churches in the circuit, who have offered to open during Lent. The spaces use our experience of Quiet Zones over the last 16 months and bringing them into the church and community. The Lent Zones can be used by churches both inside the building and outside. The minimum commitment from each church has been to open Tuesday evening and Thursday morning but it is hoped that spaces will be made available other times in the week.

The Lent Zones will be made up of three spaces to reflect, as Jesus did in the wilderness on the big questions of the day. Our aim is to discern where God is in these issues, which have been drawn from the questions and comments made in Quiet Zones.

The first space will be displaying some of the many questions asked during the Quiet Zones and people will be invited to reflect on them whilst walking or sitting among them and invited to add their own.

The second space will invite us to let go of some the baggage that we carry, the expectations of self and others, the guilt and hurt of the past and recognise our own buried emotions, that can hinder our living in God's kingdom.

The third space will be a place to pray for the world, using ribbons to symbolise our prayers.

Churches are invited to offer hospitality, with a place to sit and share- over a drink and some refreshments - so that questions that are raised and the thoughts that the Holy Spirit prompts can be shared with others, who are our companions on the journey - especially this journey through Lent.

The churches that have offered to host the Lent Zones are listed below. Times of discussion, reflection and prayers will be on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings at these venues. We are hoping to offer Quiet Zones after Easter, in partnership with the Wellshore Community Hub Shop.

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Week beginning | 22 nd February | Greenford |
| | 1 st March | Hanwell |
| | 8 th March | Acton |
| | 15 th March | Kingsdown |
| | 22 nd March | Northolt |

Holy Week begins on the 30th March and the circuit staff hope to spend time reflecting and praying at each of the Circuit churches throughout the week.

The invitation is to join together, to spend time as a community of Methodist people, reflecting on this important week in Jesus' and our lives. Further details and the timetable of events will be announced.

Please offer one another time this Lent to watch and pray with Jesus.

Rachel

Travelling through Holy Week

Often in church we can find ourselves going from the excited crowds of Palm Sunday to the joyful resurrection of Easter Sunday without experiencing any of what lies between them.

The stories of Holy Week are intense and inspiring, raising questions that lie at the heart of our faith.

As a staff team we long to explore them together and invite you to join us.

We're in the process of planning what we hope will be an exciting, thoughtful and meaningful set of services for each night in Holy Week travelling across the circuit. Each service will focus on one aspect of the story of Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

They will take us from foot washing and sharing a meal, through arrest and trial to crucifixion and waiting. It will be possible to join us for all of the services, or to come to one or two as you are able.

We hope that

- churches will be willing to vary their normal pattern and try something a little different
- people will travel across the circuit to each others' churches and get to know each other
- we will be enriched by sharing with many of you as the week goes on
- together we might enter into the stories of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and be challenged by them, and that through them our experience of Easter might grow and change.
- Please look out for the invitations when they arrive in your church and come and join us."

Holy Week around the Circuit

- **Monday 30th March Acton Hill 7pm**
A Quiet Reflective Service including the Washing of Feet
-
- **Tuesday 31st March Pitshanger 7pm**
A Shared Meal - Please bring food to share
-
- **Wednesday 1st April Ealing Green 7pm**
A Quiet Service reflecting on Gethsemane
-
- **Maundy Thursday 2nd April Hanwell 7pm**
A dramatic Service focussing on Jesus' arrest and trial
-
- **Outside Kings Hall, Southall 8.30pm**
Around the fire - meditating on Peter's denial
-
- **Good Friday 3rd April**
1-3pm Hamborough School, Southall
Stations of the Cross (Urdu/Hindi)
- 3pm Kingsdown
- 3pm Greenford Saturday
- 4th April Northolt

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books Cakes Gifts
Bric-a-Brac

**Saturday
14th March**

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

*Kingsdown Charity of the Year
'Contact a Family'*

contact a family
for families with disabled children

Charity of the Year

Our Charity of the Year for 2014/15 is Contact-a-Family Ealing and Southall, a branch of a national charity that supports and gives advice to parents and carers of disabled children. Our final event in support of Contact-a-Family is a book fair that will be held on Saturday March 14th with the usual cake and bric-a-brac stalls. We hope to add to the excellent amount we raised at Christmas. All donations gratefully received.

Thank you

Olwen Britton



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2015 10 to 16 MAY

On Thursday January 29th, Lita, Mary and I attended the afternoon session of the Supporters' Day at Inter-Church House "The Road to Christian Aid Week 2015".

As usual, it was a wonderful afternoon. After registration and refreshments we were welcomed by Mark, Head of the London Region Team, and again our keynote and inspiring address was given by CA CEO Loretta Minghella, OBE. We honoured long serving CA supporters and listened to talks on Emergency Appeals (we now have "special" envelopes to hand out to neighbours and friends (as well as the church) - Country Focus - permits and collections. We also saw some of the 2015 films including 'Loko's Burden' - 'The difference a cow makes'.

Then we had 50 minutes for Workshops and fortunately Lita, Mary and I chose different workshops. The afternoon ended with a Reflection led by Mark.

Christian Aid Week this year will focus on Ethiopia and especially on two women Adi and Loko, who live about 25 miles from each other, but have **never met**.

ADT

Two years ago, Adi's husband died. She was left with eight children, no cattle, and just one sheep. She and her children were eating just one meal each day and very little even then. With no husband, and no livestock she had no status. She was ignored, sidelined, belittled. Then, through Christian Aid's partner Hundee, she was given a cow. (A cow costs about £150). She now had status, income and food for her family. From a single cow Adi had milk, churned butter, made a little money, and found hope. Adi's cow made her a full member of the community. She now has a voice when the community gathers to make decisions.

LOKO

You will see photos of Loko on many of the posters and other Christian Aid resources. She is carrying a large bundle of wood on her back. Loko's choice in life is no kind of choice at all: "If I can't collect firewood, my

children will die." So, four times each week, Loko makes a backbreaking 8-hour trip to gather wood. She walks alone, her thin plastic shoes are punctured with thorns, afraid she could be attacked by hyenas. And, as she walks, she prays to God "I ask Him to change my life and lead us out of this." "God please help me to buy some food for my children because they are going to die. God, please open all the paths in front of me."

This year, I have ordered extra copies of the DVDs to pass round to friends at Kingsdown, plus 40 copies of a CA Week Daily Devotional booklet. This is just for the seven days of CA week, but of course it may be used at any time. Each day there is a short reading about Abi, Loko, and Dabo; a Bible reading, points for prayer, and something to think about.

NB. A Christian Aid volunteer writes **"Its not much use going on your knees on a Sunday and praying for the poor if you're not prepared to actually get up and do something.** One of the big strengths of Christian Aid is that it gives you the chance to put something that matters to you into action, because you believe in it."

And a further comment by the Rev Simon Howard, St Mary's Church, Twyford "It's great to feel part of something really meaningful."

Elsewhere in this Messenger you will find a Christian Aid Church magazine article entitled "Afraid, alone, in pain" - Loko carrying firewood.

In the meantime, I shall be inviting those who have collected for Christian Aid before to do so again - just the usual collections: House-to-House and Flag Day.

Anna will again take part in the "Circle the City" sponsored walk (6 miles or 3 miles). The date is Sunday 17 May and, as usual, she invites friends from Kingsdown to join her.

Ruby Warne

THE BOX

Many thanks again for all the items in the box. A good start for 2015!

Afraid, alone, in pain

Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.



Loko's choice in life is simple:
'If I can't collect firewood,
my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

This Christian Aid Week,
you can help transform the
lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community.

Find out how you can play your part at
caweek.org



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Methodist
relief and
development

TOGO West Africa

In Togo, West Africa, food insecurity remains critical and over a million people are regularly in need of food aid. The Northern regions, where All We Can works, are the most under-served and politically marginalised areas of the country.

AWC's work in Togo focuses on supporting projects that strengthen livelihoods and food security with a particular emphasis on marginalised groups, people living with HIV/AIDS, women and ethnic minorities.



GADIB Group d'Action pour le Development Integre a la Base (GADIB)

Works to find sustainable farming solutions to chronic food insecurity in the villages of the Savanes region, the poorest in the country. Partner since: 2009



EVTEspoir Vie Togo (EVT)

Works to provide medical care and psychosocial support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Partner since: 2004

Meet our partners

All We Can has worked in Malawi since 2000. Our partners focus on supporting people living with HIV to receive support, counselling and training to improve health and increase



Methodist
relief and
development

Malawi Meet our partners

All We Can has worked in Malawi since 2000. Our partners focus on supporting people living with HIV to receive support, counselling and training to improve health and increase their income. They also raise awareness in the community to tackle stigma and reduce transmission.

Unemployment is also a major challenge for young people in Malawi so our partners invest in young people's ideas and support them to start their own businesses enabling them to gain new skills and financial independence.



CHIHADOchikondi HIV/AIDS and the Disabled Organisation (CHIHADO)

Works to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and encourage people to go for voluntary counselling and testing, and provides training to improve nutrition. Partner since: 2011



Ehlenhi Ehlenhi Community Based Organisation

Works to improve the livelihoods and nutrition of people living with HIV/AIDS by distributing goats, providing training in sustainable farming techniques. Partner since: 2011



FSIDFoundation for Irrigation and Sustainable Development (FISD)

Tackles unemployment by encouraging young people to develop business plans before providing loans and support to set up their own small businesses. Partner since: 2011

Circuit Sponsored Walk

Saturday 21st March

MHA Live at Home Scheme



There will be a Circuit sponsored walk on Saturday 21st March in support of the proposed MHA Live at Home Scheme for Ealing. The walk will start at Greenford at 9:00am and will finish back there at 6:00pm after calling at the churches in the Circuit. The total distance is 17.9 miles, but you can do as many – or as few – sections between churches as you wish. For more information and/or to sign up for the walk, please speak to one of the church stewards or contact Deacon Lemia Nkwelah via e-mail, lemmyinkwelah@gmail.com, or on 020 8575 5463.

The idea is to promote Ealing MHA Live at Home Scheme, raise money and have some fun!

The Route is -

- Greenford Methodist - Pitshanger Methodists Church
leave 09:00 arrive 10:00
-
- Pitshanger Methodist Church – Acton Hill Methodist Church
leave 10:15 arrive 11:30
-
- Acton Hill Methodist Church – Ealing Green Church
leave 11:45 arrive 12:45
-
- Ealing Green Church – Kingsdown Methodist Church
leave 13:00 arrive 13:30
-
- Kingsdown Methodist Church – Hanwell Methodist Church
leave 13:45 arrive 14:15
-
- Hanwell Methodist Church – King's Hall Southall
leave 14:30 arrive 15:30
-
- King's Hall Southall – Northolt Methodist
leave 15:45 arrive 16:45
-
- Northolt Methodist – Greenford Methodist
leave 17:00 arrive 18:00



**Saturday, 7th March, from 11.00 am:
WEST LONDON FAIRTRADE WALK - EALING
SECTION: HANWELL TO CHISWICK**

We have joined with the Fairtrade Groups in Brent, Harrow, Hounslow and Richmond to organise this West London Fairtrade Walk, whose aim is to celebrate Fairtrade and promote the places that sell, serve and use Fairtrade products.

In Ealing we are walking from Hanwell to Chiswick, where we will join walkers from the other four boroughs for a 20th Anniversary of Fairtrade Celebration.

The walk is in three stages and you can join us for one, two or all three stages - or simply come along to the celebration in Chiswick from 4.00 - 6.30 pm.

Here is our timetable for the 7th March:-

11.00 am: Meet for Pre-walk Refreshments at St. Mellitus Church, Church Road, Hanwell, W7 3BA

12.00 Noon: Stage 1: Walk starts from St. Mellitus Church, and proceeds via West Ealing, Northfields and South Ealing to Ealing Green

1.15-2.15 pm: A chance to explore the Fairtrade shops and cafes in Ealing Broadway

2.15 pm: Stage 2: Walk restarts from the statue of the horse, Oak Road, Ealing Broadway Centre, and proceeds via Ealing Common to Acton Town

3.15 pm: Stage 3: Walk restarts from The Apple Tree Café, Acton Town Station and proceeds via Acton Lane to Acton Green

4.00 pm - 6.30 pm: **20th Anniversary Celebration of Fairtrade at St Michael and All Angels Parish Hall, W4 1TX.**

All are welcome - free entry

St Michael and All Angels Parish Hall, W4 1TX (next to Turnham Green Tube Station)

4 pm Welcome with Fairtrade tea/coffee

4.30 pm Mary Macleod MP – formal opening of event

The evening will include:

A Film about Fairtrade and speakers including Jonathan Smith, Head of Campaigns, Fairtrade Foundation and Clare Paine of Christian Aid.

A film about Divine Chocolate and talk by Charlotte Borger, Divine Chocolate Communications Director. Tasting of samples: Divine Chocolate and Co-operative Fairtrade Wine.

We hope to meet you during the Fortnight!

With best wishes

Jackie

On behalf of Ealing Fairtrade Steering Group



'Children's mental health'

A poll of 2000 parents by Action for Children found that mental health was a top parental concern, ahead of worries about diet and /or weight (32% of parents) and suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer (21%).

Mothers are particularly likely to worry about their children's mental and emotional wellbeing with 47% saying it was a concern compared to 32% of fathers.

Submitted by June Thompson

"God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I am so far behind I will never die."

Turn, Turn, Turn

Back in the 1960's, my Saturday afternoons were often spent at a friend's house, with a couple of other school mates, listening to the current "hit" records of the day. The latest songs by the Searchers, Hollies, Beach Boys and Roy Orbison (amongst others) were played, while we enacted our own version of "Juke Box Jury"!

One record that seemed to be played quite a lot was by an American group, The Byrds, and it eventually reached the dizzy heights of number 26 in the UK charts of October 1965. So what, you may ask, had this to do with my Christian life?

Back then records were made of vinyl and spun on a turntable at 45 revolutions per minute. Labels were stuck in the centre, showing the name of the song and the record company, as well as details of the composers and performers. What struck me about this particular label was that, just below the name of the song, were the words, "Adapted from the Book of Ecclesiastes". When I returned home, I checked the passage in my King James Bible and sure enough, apart from a couple of lines and a few slight changes to fit the metre of the tune, the lyrics were virtually identical to the passage in my Bible.

The song was "Turn! Turn! Turn!" and the writer who adapted the Bible passage was the American folk-singer and songwriter, Pete Seeger. Since the Byrds took it into the charts (it reached number one in America), the song has been recorded by many other singers over the years, but for me the definitive version will always be the recording by the Byrds, with Roger McGuinn's jangly guitar sound, that resonated around my friend's front room all those years ago.

Reading the Bible passage many times over, although I still struggle with a couple of the lines, has made me realise that God does have a plan for our lives and that "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."



**from Alan Rickards, St Luke's, Holmes
Chapel, Cheshire**

Anne Frank- 70th anniversary of her death

Many people think of Anne Frank as a Dutch girl, but she was born – and died – in Germany. This month marks the 70th anniversary of her death – only nine months after she recorded the final entry in her diary while hiding from the Nazis in a secret annex in Amsterdam, which had become her home town after her Jewish family had fled the Nazis.

Her full name was Annelies Marie Frank, and that last entry in the diary given to her by her father was made on 1st August, 1944. She was 15 years old. Three days later her hiding place was raided following a tip-off. She and her family were taken to Auschwitz concentration camp. Anne and her sister were later transferred to Bergen-Belsen, where they died of typhus.

Their father Otto, a former German soldier and businessman who was the only member of his family to survive the death camps, was impressed and deeply moved when he discovered what his daughter had written. He arranged for parts of it to be published, and it is now known universally as The Diary of Anne Frank. It has been filmed many times, adapted for the stage and translated into many languages.

It tells the inspiring story of how eight people survived the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam by living for over two years in a dark, concealed part of Otto's company building, protected and fed by – among others – two Christians who ran the company on the owner's behalf.

Throughout the diary runs a thread of faith, hope and love, tinged with despair. A fortnight before she was captured, the teenager wrote: "I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return."



Anne Frank Trust
www.annefrank.org.uk

Museum visitors address
Anne Frank House
Prinsengracht 267
Amsterdam

Pray for our dairy farmers

A Christian charity has urged churches to pray for and support British dairy farmers. They are struggling to survive amid falling milk prices.

The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC), a charity supported by rural churches, made its call to rally the churches after First Milk recently announced it would delay payments to 1,200 farmer members because of a financial crisis at the farming co-operative.

The number of dairy farmers has halved over little more than a decade. ARC chief executive Jerry Marshall adds: "Prices are at their lowest since 2007 while costs have risen 36%."

Therefore, the ARC called on Christians to pray for dairy farmers who are suffering from financial hardship.

Canon Dr Jill Hopkinson, national rural officer for the Church of England, said church members and the public could also show their support for the British dairy industry by looking out for the Red Tractor logo when buying dairy products, such as milk, butter, cheese and yoghurt. "Church members could also show their support through choosing to buy milk from supermarkets that pay a fair price to farmers," added Dr Hopkinson.



How to make a difference

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean, because the surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." The man said, "Sonny, don't you realize this beach goes on for miles and there must be thousands of starfish? You can't make much of a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one."

15 March Mothering Sunday – and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ. On Midlent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The British Isles seem to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.



Mother's reward

A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.

The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.



- bringing women together to know Christ and to make him known
- encouraging, equipping and enabling women to serve God in the church, the community and the world
- connecting women in Britain with women worldwide

Being one, being whole, being God's

Residential Weekend at the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 April 2015

£160

starts with Friday dinner at 6.45pm and ends at 4.00pm on Sunday

further enquiries admin@mwib.org.uk or 0300 030 9873

All women in sympathy with our aims are welcome at any MWiB event

Do not fear, for I am with you

There is an interesting legend of the American Indian youth's rite of passage? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night, he is a man. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man.

Finally, after a horrific night the sun and warmth appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you."

Methodist Women in Britain {MWiB} Forum Report - London District

The Forum meeting held at Swanwick in September 2014, saw the introduction of 16 new members, who replaced the last group of District representatives who had completed the first 3 years since the launch of MWiB.

As the Forum consolidates its range of activities, new initiatives that extends the vision of the organisation were thrashed out and agreed, at the first of this year's meetings. These include, clarity of roles and function in the different spheres of work, Dhalit Solidarity Project, Focus on Dementia Friendly Societies and active participation in the activities of:- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women {WFMUCW}.

At the Meeting 2015, our President Linda Crossley, reminded members that, since the Autumn Forum hours had been extended, much more work had been accomplished. It was therefore proposed that the Spring Forum that was currently an intense 10am – 4pm meeting in London, should be extended to include an overnight stay. This was agreed.

Future Events

Easter Offering 2015

The theme of the 2015 Easter Offering Service is "The leaves of the tree". Members were asked to encourage Districts to order the material in good time. All information are to be found on our web site.

MWiB Swanwick Weekend Friday 17-Sunday 19 April 2015

The theme for the Swanwick Weekend is:- "**Being One, Being Whole, Being God's**". The Keynote speaker will be Rev. Jackie Bellfield, minister of the New Song Network in Sankey Valley Circuit, Liverpool district, and broadcaster. This should prove be, another action-packed, Spirit-filled and fun weekend and is open to all women.

WFM&UCW Area Officer 2016-2021

Carolyn Lawrence has accepted the post of WFM&UCW Area Officer and member of MWiB executive and will take over the role from Alison Judd, the current post holder, in 2016. She will also be the Vice-President of the Europe: {Britain and Ireland Area}, of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar

This scholarship is geared to young women, aged between 18 and 30. The successful candidate, will take over from Rachel Coates, our current Scholar- in August 2016. It is hoped that members will publicise this office, among the young members in their churches and Circuits. More information can be obtained on the MWiB web site.

The 13th World Assembly of WFM&UCW

This event will be held at the same venue in Houston as the World Methodist Council Conference from Monday, 29 August to Saturday 3 September. The chosen theme is **'Chosen People: Called to Proclaim'**. It is hoped that that there will be a good number of UK delegates. The challenge for the organisation. Is how to attract a more inclusive representation at Church, Circuit and Forum levels.

NOTES:

The Forum is the Methodist Church connexional Policy making Body, for Methodist Women in Britain {MWiB}, which is also the British Unit for the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women {WFM&UCW} - an international Non- Governmental Organisation.

For more information on MWIB Aims, Objectives, Activities etc.- these can be found on the MWIB, website.

Blossom Jackson- Feb 2015

MWIB Forum representative- London District



A survey of festive cards sent out by local authorities across Britain found only one out of 182 that mentioned the birth of Christ. That was from Banbridge in Northern Ireland.

Nearly half of the cards ignored Christmas, preferring phrases such as Season's Greetings or Happy Holidays.

Some had pictures of the council offices on the front; one showed a bus shelter.

(From a report in 'The Independent')

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.



St ANGELA

It is not that long ago that most girls never had the chance to be educated. But one determined woman started the process, and her name was Angela Merici. She was born in Italy on 24 March 1474. Both her parents died when she was only 10, and then when Angela was 13 her elder sister died too, which led her to dedicate her life to God. When she was only 22 she started a school for young girls in her home town and this was so successful that she was invited to start schools in other places. Her faith led her to make pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to Rome.

It was when she was in Rome in 1524 that she suddenly lost her sight. Pope Clement VII asked her to stay in Rome to take charge of an order of nursing nuns but she refused and went home to Brescia. When she was almost 60 she started the Order of St Ursula, which is still involved in teaching today. Even though she was blind, St Angela Merici had a vision of what was possible with God's help.

SCHOOL SUBJECTS

This timetable has the lessons scrambled up – can you unravel the school subjects? Answers below.

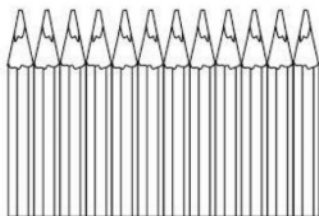
| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Period 1 | CATESTHAMIM |
| Period 2 | ROYTHIS |
| Period 3 | GHELSIN |
| Period 4 | CHNFER |
| LUNCH | |
| Period 5 | RAT |
| Period 6 | MYITCHERS |
| Period 7 | MESAG |

What did I get for my history test?

Well, first the good news – you spelled your name correctly.

Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you?

Pupil: Not really.



What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet.



Answers: 1. Mathematics 2. History
3. English 4. French 5. Art 6. Chemistry
7. Games

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MARCH

- Mon 2 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 3 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - The Caroliners sing for us
- Wed 4 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
7 pm Youth Group - Upper Foyer
- Thu 5 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 6 Women's World Day of Prayer Service, Salvation Army,
Leeland Road, West Ealing, London W13 9HH
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 7 'Away Day' at St Katharine's, Our facilitator, Wendy Beard, will
be devising another interesting and enjoyable programme for us in
collaboration with Rachel. Coach transport to and from the venue,
lunch and refreshments are all provided. Please do sign up on the
list on the foyer notice board or inform Gerald if you are coming
(tel 020 8840 7704 ; email gerald.barton6039@btinternet.com)
- Sat 7 10.30am - 4.00pm Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar, Hanwell
Methodist Church. Admission Free
- Tue 10 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 17 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - The Reminiscence Road Show
- Thu 19 8.0 pm Church Council Meeting
- Sat 14 10.00 am to 12.30 pm Book Fair with cake and bric-a-brac
stalls. Proceeds for Entry 40p.
- Sat 21 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Circuit Sponsored Walk in support of
MHA Live at Home Scheme. Starts and ends at Greenford via
all Circuit Churches.

APRIL

10 MAY Annual General Meeting following Sunday morning service.