



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



February 2017



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

- 5 Feb 10.30 Mr David Richards
Followed by a General Church Meeting to review the
proposed changes in the Ealing Circuit. See pp 5-9
- 12 Feb 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith - Family/Parade Service
- 19 Feb 10.30 Rev Rachel Bending - Holy Communion
- 26 Feb 10.30 Mrs Rekha Cheriyan



Prayer of thanks for God's light



Father of all creation,

Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter. Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him - nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm.

Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace. In Jesus's name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2017 issue is Friday 24 February 2017

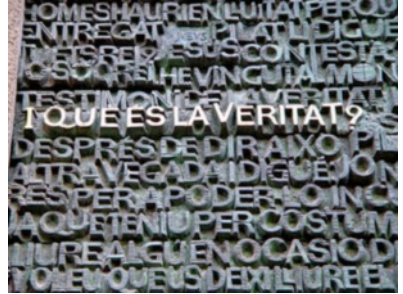
Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



Dear friends

In the 24 hours following his inauguration, Donald Trump's press advisor and others reacted to the huge protests against his presidency by contradicting the evidence of photographs to claim a record turn out for the inauguration. When challenged by reporters a senior advisor claimed that the press officer had been merely offering an "alternative truth".



Over the past months there have been numerous occasions when "alternative truths" have been presented, not just by Trump's team but in the Brexit debates in this country amongst other times. We've also seen a rise in concerns over 'false news', stories with no foundation which have been circulated on various internet forums until they begin to take on the appearance of actual news.

I don't know about you, but I've become increasingly frustrated, worried, angry and upset at hearing falsehoods presented as alternative truth. This blurring between truth and falsehood and the presentation of falsehood as truth leaves many of us with feelings of insecurity and makes it hard to trust. This happens to us not only individually but also nationally and internationally.

In the trial seen in John's Gospel there is the following exchange between Pilate and Jesus (John 18:37-8)

Pilate asked him,

'So you are a king?'

Jesus answered,

'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

Pilate asked him,

'What is truth?'

We don't get to hear Jesus's answer as Pilate immediately goes out to tell the crowd that he finds no fault in Jesus. But it's Pilate's answer to Jesus that interests me.

Some days when I read the passage I hear in Pilate's voice an eagerness and excitement, a longing to be told, to discover truth and be set free. On other days as I read I hear the cynical voice of a war wearied politician who has long-since ceased to believe that there is truth to be told or heard. In John's Gospel, of course, the truth is found in the person of Jesus in whom freedom can be found in listening to and responding to the voice of the good shepherd.

And truth is in its self freeing. It frees us from pretence, from the tension that living with falsehood can bring. It must be incredibly tiring for Trump's press secretary to have to find fresh "alternative truths" and to deny the truth of photographs etc. I wonder what would happen if instead he'd said something like:

"Yes, I know, there was an incredibly low attendance at the inauguration and that the protests the next day saw the greatest attendance since those against the Vietnam War. This shows just how divided this country is. The way in which we carried out our election campaign and some of our past actions before that are, in part, responsible for those divisions and for people's pain. We are sorry for that and acknowledge that we have a responsibility to help to bring healing."

As nations and individuals we face huge challenges in the coming years. These challenges need to be face with honesty, openness and vulnerability and an acknowledgement that we are all connected to each other, that one person's pain affects all of us. In the words of the Prophet Micah we can transform the world and ourselves if we do what God requires - do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God

Yours hopefully and with love

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large, prominent 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'l'.

Ealing Trinity Circuit - Circuit Stationing Consultation Meeting - 18th January 2017

The meeting was consulted on and considered the future changes that will need to be made within the Circuit as a result of Jen's forthcoming appointment (see p. 9). It was to make recommendations which will be put to the Circuit Meeting at Pitshanger on 23rd February. Following the meeting, church representatives were asked to discuss the outcome of the meeting with other members of their churches and their Circuit Meeting representatives.

The following are some of the salient points abstracted from the Minutes of this meeting.

Proposal

Deacons

Two Deacons each covering a separate geographical area together with a circuit-wide specialist responsibility relating to a particular life-stage.

Deacon 1 (D1 on the diagram) would cover the western area comprising Northolt, Greenford, Hanwell and the King's Hall congregations as well as special responsibility for work with older people such as the Circuit's involvement with the MHA Ealing Live at Home Scheme. This was the same as Deacon Lemia's existing role and Greenford would remain her "home church".

Deacon 2 (D2) would cover the eastern area comprising Pitshanger, Acton Hill, Ealing Green and Kingsdown plus special responsibility for work with children and young people. This is the role that Deacon Ramona Samuel will take from next September and is a slight enlargement of that originally anticipated for her. Until Ramona arrives the Rev Randolph Turner will continue to serve Acton Hill and Ealing Green as Associate Pastor in place of a deacon.

Presbyters

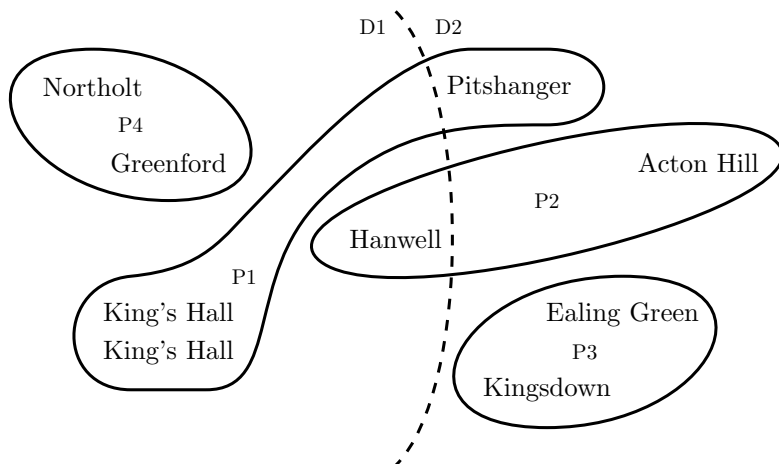
There would be four presbyter posts each responsible for a different "pastoral section" of the Circuit comprising two churches and each also having a specific circuit-wide specialist responsibility. Three of these are existing ministers within the Circuit.

Presbyter 1 (P1) would be the Superintendent and have responsibility for the two King's Hall congregations and Pitshanger. Rev Rachel Bending's continued close involvement with King's Hall is essential to support the proposed redevelopment of the site into hotel/conference centre.

Presbyter 2 (P2) would be responsible for Hanwell and Acton Hill churches and also serve as tutor to the local preachers and worship leaders (LPWL). Shirlyn Toppin would fill this role as she is already minister for Hanwell and LPWL tutor and is interested in becoming involved with Acton Hill.

Presbyter 3 (P3) would cover Kingsdown and Ealing Green churches together with as yet unspecified additional responsibilities depending on their preferences and expertise. Ealing Green and Kingsdown are considered to share similarities in their worship styles and mission work and so could be mutually supportive.

Presbyter 4 (P4) would have responsibility for Northolt, Greenford and schools work, together with the existing Interfaith Educator in Southall. This is the role Yemi is already fulfilling.



- P1 Super + King's Hall + Pitshanger
- P2 Hanwell + Acton Hill + LPWL tutor
- P3 Kingsdown + Ealing Green
- P4 Northolt + Greenford + Schools work

- D1 West + Older people
- D2 East + Young people

The Circuit could remain within this year's stationing process just in case a presbyter did become available for the coming September, however there would be little choice about such a last minute appointment. On the other hand, if the Circuit waited until next year's stationing process the combination of Ealing Green and Kingsdown as a "section" was likely to prove attractive so a wider range of candidates could be expected with the churches having more influence as to who was stationed.

If a new presbyter did not join the Circuit until September 2018, there were two alternatives for covering the interim year. The existing Circuit staff could endeavour to cover the vacancy by taking on extra work. The better alternative would be for the Circuit to employ an interim appointee under the direct supervision of the Superintendent. (This would be similar to the current arrangement whereby Randolph Turner has been employed by the Circuit as Associate Pastor to cover the vacant deacon's role.)

Based on recent experience it seems likely that there would be a range of very capable, experienced applicants for an interim role to cover Kingsdown and Ealing Green. Both churches would be able to help develop an appropriate role profile / job advertisement reflecting their requirements. Church representatives would join the ministers and Circuit stewards on the interview panel to select the appointee.

Concern was expressed about the possible effect on both Kingsdown and Ealing Green of a period of uncertainty and two changes of minister within less than two years given that both churches are still developing their visions and way forward after previous periods of change and physical redevelopment projects. In response it was suggested this could be avoided by ensuring that the interim appointee was skilled in managing change and helping congregations develop their mission, as well as being able to provide the necessary pastoral care. Some participants recalled previous experiences when their churches faced periods without a minister and how this led to members rallying together and discovering the experience to be positive.

Conclusion

The meeting agreed by consensus that the proposal submitted by the Circuit Invitations Committee and described above should be recommended to the Circuit Meeting on 23rd February which, as usual, will be open to all Circuit members to attend if they wish.

In the meantime the Circuit Stewards and church representatives participating in the meeting were asked to communicate the proposal to their congregations, explaining that circuit members were welcome to suggest alternatives, express concerns and ask questions which should be addressed initially to their ministers and stewards.

From Rachel

On a personal note, I have enjoyed, what will be 3 years, serving as your minister. The vision which is beginning to coalesce and take shape is exciting and full of life.

I am convinced that Kingsdown needs to continue to reflect on and build its vision for the future. We have a strong community full of diverse beliefs and life experiences with huge gifts. I have been deeply moved by the brave, honest and strong discussions we have had together in recent months.

I know that the coming months will bring my absence during my sabbatical followed by my move to superintendency and that this will bring some uncertainty and loss for all of us, me included. However, I am hopeful that this change to the circuit's organisation and, in particular, the pairing of Kingsdown and Ealing Green, can bring substantial medium and long term benefits.

I also want to assure you that, as superintendent, I will still be very much around supporting Kingsdown's life and ministry in a new way.

There will be a general church meeting (at Kingsdown) after the service on 5th February to talk about this.

With love and prayers for all the future brings.



Love Love of God is the root, love of our neighbour the fruit of the Tree of Life. Neither can exist without the other, but the one is cause and the other effect.

Archbishop William Temple

Rev Dr Jennifer Smith

Appointment to Wesley's Chapel

The following announcement was made during the morning service on Sunday 18th December 2016:

The Methodist Church has appointed Rev Dr Jennifer Smith to be Superintendent Minister of Wesley's Chapel, City Road from September 2017. She will replace Lord Leslie Griffiths on his retirement and will be the first woman to hold this post, first occupied by John Wesley.

This appointment has come as a great surprise to both Jennifer and her husband Keith. The decision was confirmed on Sunday 11th December and was then shared with our other Circuit ministers and the Circuit Stewards during the following week.

It was announced to all our churches at the same time on Sunday 18th December when it was also announced that when Jennifer leaves, Rev Rachel Bending will replace her as Superintendent Minister of our Circuit.

All Methodist ministers are under a discipline of annual 'stationing' which is the process of appointing ministers to churches and circuits.

However, it is highly unusual for a superintendent be pulled into stationing without notice, something which is not done without great reflection.

We are currently in the eighth year of Jennifer's ministry in the Ealing Trinity Circuit. She has already been re-invited twice by the Circuit Meeting and her expected term was to run until August 2018. She will continue to serve as our Circuit Superintendent and as minister of Acton Hill and Ealing Green until August 2017.



"To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language!"

Family News

While **Ivy Hanson** is away for three weeks getting a dose of Jamaican sunshine, **Blossom Jackson** and **Sybil Corbin** have kindly provided the flowers and we thank them for taking on this responsibility.

A number of our Kingsdown family are, or have been, poorly recently (such as **Violet Cordon** with a bad dose of flu and **Rita Brewster** having had a fall). Please remember them in your prayers, together with others known to you.

A recent communication from Lorna Howarth has notified us of the death of **Dorothy Elgar** (at 94 years of age), who was a long standing previous member at Kingsdown. Her funeral service took place on Monday, 14 November at Treswithian Downs Crematorium in Camborne, conducted by the Rev Anthony Keast (whose wife Anne is Dorothy's daughter). Some of you may have seen Anthony and Anne when they attended the Boys Brigade celebration at Kingdown, having had a close association with the BB in past years. We send sincere condolences from Kingsdown to Dorothy's family, and fond remembrances of both Dorothy and her husband Tony from those of us who were privileged to know them during their time at Kingsdown.



Pam and Alan would like to thank all those kind friends at Kingsdown who sent them Christmas cards and mention that their donation to 'All We Can' in lieu of cards was directed at providing bee-hives along with training in good bee-keeping and forest management in Ethiopia where there has been severe drought over several years.

Although a little belatedly, we send our sincere good wishes to all our readers for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Be who you are and say what you feel with sensitivity, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

From the Church Council

The most recent meeting of the Church Council was held on 6th December 2016 and was attended by 10 members of the Council. The meeting started with a discussion of the reactions to holding Holy Communion in the hall. These were positive and it was felt that the brief presentations about the AwayDay had allowed more people to engage with its results.

It was commented that at the service people had sat in groups made up of the people they would normally sit with. The meeting felt that there is a need to encourage greater mixing so that we get to know each other better. In addition, the discussion at the service had brought out some cultural differences within the church and it was also noticeable that the congregation tended to split along cultural lines. Again the meeting felt that there is a need to develop better understandings of each other's cultural backgrounds and practices. Although reference had been made to 'colour' in that discussion, it was not felt that 'colour' of itself was an issue, rather the issue was about cultural differences.

The Council agreed that services in the hall should take place once each quarter with a focus on the

active participation of as many people as possible in leading worship. The service would be followed by a 'bring and share lunch'. A small group would be called together before the service to plan – suggestions for a theme would be welcome.

It had also been suggested that the church should develop a short 'vision statement'. This could be discussed at a service, although it needs to be remembered that the process and the conversations involved in bringing 'vision' about were more important than the end itself.

One of the proposals that came out of the AwayDay was to think about removing two pews from the back of the church with the aim of creating more space for quiet conversations. This would also provide more space for activities during Traders Days. Thinking beyond that, Rachel Bending said she felt that some changes to the layout at the front of the church were needed to improve sight lines because the position of the piano blocks the view of the Boys Brigade at family services. It was agreed that there was a need to discuss the issue with the wider church before coming to any conclusions. The meeting noted, however that the

underlying issue here is about how the worship space is used and is not about personal preferences for retaining the pews or otherwise.

On finance, Derek Matthews reported that the Standard Form of Accounts for 2015-16 had been completed and was awaiting independent examination. Income and expenditure so far this connexional year were in line with expectations. There were some suggestions as to how to use the legacy from Peter Loveridge and the donation from Babies & Toddlers. Kath Jarrett had looked at various options for a new cross for the communion table – the original having been stolen in 2007.

A metal cross is required as wooden crosses do not show up against the panelled wall behind the communion table. Most metal crosses at economical cost are crucifixes intended for Catholic/high church use. Plain metal crosses start at about £2,000. Rachel Bending will research further and download some photographs of possible crosses for the congregation to consider.

Rachel Bending suggested purchasing a set of NRSV Bibles for study use. This version is the translation closest to the original texts currently available. She noted that the Good News Bible is a

paraphrase which has become dated over time and consideration should be given to replacing the Good News Bibles in the pews in due course. The meeting agreed to purchase 15 NRSV Bibles.

On property matters, Janet Smith reported that the lights in the Arena had been replaced. Following the meeting the lights in the hall have also been replaced. Thanks are due to Alan Smith and Matthew Plews who were both closely involved with the work. In addition, the meeting agreed that the existing fire alarm system should be modified and extended. The work will be done by AEJ, a local firm also used by Ealing Council and will cost about £3,500 plus VAT.

Although it's now 'last year', the Council heard that four classes from Fielding School were to visit the Festival of Nativities on Friday 9th December and Corner House Nursery on 23rd November. Splash & Dash also visited on Thursday 15th December, although Little Ealing School did not visit this time. The Traders' Winter Festival took place on Saturday 10th December. Despite the poor weather, quite a few people and families dropped in to the church, some of whom also came to the Carol Service.

On 6th May we will be hosting a concert by the Heinz Chapel Choir

from the University of Pittsburgh – please speak to Alan Smith if you would like to be involved in the arrangements for the concert.

Rachel Bending will be taking sabbatical leave for 3 months starting 1st April 2017. A Sabbatical Support Group has been set up including Rev Jen Smith and Deacon Lemia Nkwelah. Members of the meeting were asked to raise any issues they think should be

considered by the group with Rachel Bending or Sybil Corbin.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be on 15th March 2017 at 8.00pm. It was agreed, however that the General Church Meeting should be postponed until after Rachel's return from sabbatical.

Gerald Barton
Church Council Secretary



The Difference

*I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I did not have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task,
"Why doesn't God Help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on grey and bleak.
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."*

*I woke up early this morning, and paused before starting the day.
/ had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.*

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books



Bric-a-Brac

Refreshments

Saturday
11th February

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission Free

Proceeds to:

JMA and MWIB

KINGSDOWN CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY to APRIL 2017

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND . WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF KINGSDOWN AVENUE / NORTH-FIELD AVENUE FROM 2.00 TO 4.00PM

TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT.
PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS [TEL. NO. 0208 567 4205] FOR DETAILS.

10th JANUARY
A BINGO AFTERNOON

24th JANUARY PIANO
PLAY TIME with ROB CUNNINGTON

7th FEBRUARY
THE HISTORY of PEARS SOAP a TALK
by MISS ANDREA CAMERON

21st FEBRUARY
ENTERTAINMENT with GRAHAM JENKINS

7th MARCH
ALL WE CAN - History and Projects
with ALAN SMITH

21st MARCH
DAVE PLAYS and SINGS FOR US

4th APRIL
A TALK BY JANET SMITH

18 APRIL
AGM and BINGO

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS MAY 2nd 2017



ALL TOGETHER for JUSTICE

This Lent, challenge yourself to change the world!

All Together for Justice is a 6 week (40 day) resource of reflections, activities and prayers. You can follow it daily as an individual or use it weekly as a small group.

There are also other materials including films, prayers and a talk available from All We Can - if you are interested then contact Alan Smith who will arrange to get them for you.

The resources takes inspiration from John Wesley's words:

***“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.”***

These words are a strong call to action and take seriously our ability to change the world together.

GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THIS RESOURCE FROM THE CHURCH FOYER





Methodist
relief and
development

2016 Donations

During 2016 the Kingsdown family donated £984.64 to All We Can.

This has helped All We Can to continue to help some of the most needy people across the world with various projects in partnership with the local people.

In 2017 the growing needs of the refugees displaced by war, drought, famine and internal disputes in their own countries will be another series of challenges that All We Can along with the other overseas aid charities will face.

We can help by continuing to support All We Can whenever we can.

The All We Can website <http://allwecan.org.uk/> has up to date news, pictures and video of some of the current project work.

Many thanks to all those who supported All We Can last year.

Alan Smith

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

If you are alone in the Church, perhaps locking up after a service late at night, or if you're letting someone you don't know into the Church or your home, by taking a few commonsense steps, you can minimise the risk.

Look out for any potential for someone to be harmed.

For example when they are left alone in a building, particularly when it is dark.

Let people know

If you are visiting or meeting someone on behalf of the church, make sure other people know where you are going and when to expect you back.

Stay in touch

Take a mobile phone with you wherever you go.

If you are alone in the church make sure the outer doors are locked.

Janet Smith



Heinz Chapel Choir

CONCERT - SATURDAY, 6 MAY

This may seem some way ahead but, because the church would like to attract as many people as possible to this event, some forward planning needs to be put in place.

As already mentioned by our Minister, Rachel, she will be away on sabbatical at this time, so there is a need to put a team together to cover the various aspects which need to be considered, such as tickets and promotion, foyer refreshments for audience and refreshments in the hall for the choir (which will be about 50 strong).

Alan Smith has offered to co-ordinate a team effort to organise the various aspects, so if you feel able to help in any capacity **please let him know.**



For more than 75 years, the Heinz Chapel Choir has presented a cappella music from a variety of time periods and cultural traditions and in a wealth of languages. The Choir's home for the majority of its Pittsburgh performances is the Heinz Memorial Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus. The Heinz Chapel Choir is currently under the direction of its tenth conductor, Dr. Susan Rice.

Choir website: <http://www.music.pitt.edu/hcc>

Choir Videos: <http://www.pitt.edu/~heinzcc/videos.html>

The following is a beautiful 'Old Irish Blessing' which Dorothy Elgar included when writing her own funeral service.

*May the blessing of light be on you
Light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine upon you
And warm your heart
Till it glows like a great peat fire,
So that the stranger may come
And warm himself at it
As well as the friend.
And may the light shine out of the eyes of you
Like a candle set in the windows of a house
Bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.*

*And may the blessing of the rain be on you -
The soft sweet rain.
May it fall upon your spirit
So that all the little flowers may spring up
And shed their sweetness on the air.
And may the blessing of the great rains be on you -
May they beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean,
And leave there many a shining pool
Where the blue of Heaven shines -
And sometimes a star.*

*And may the blessing of the earth be on you -
The great round earth
May you have a friendly greeting
For people you pass as you go along the roads.*

*And now may the Lord bless you -
And bless you kindly.*

The challenge of loneliness

Christians must keep reaching out to their elderly neighbours in order to combat increasing loneliness, says a church pastor. Over 1 million people in the UK now suffer chronic loneliness, according to figures released by the Campaign to End Loneliness.

A survey conducted by the organisation found lonely people over the age of 65 simply missed sitting with someone. More than half of those surveyed said that they missed having someone to laugh with. A survey revealed that over a million people say they feel lonely all or most of the time; 76 per cent of GPs report 1 to 5 patients a week come to their surgery because they feel lonely, and two-fifths of older people say their main source of company is the TV. Women are more likely to report being lonely than men.



The study concluded that people who suffer with loneliness are 64 per cent more likely to develop clinical dementia.

Loneliness is common among the elderly because of bereavement, poor health and lack of transportation.

All these factors contribute to elderly people being unable to leave the house to participate in the social activities they used to enjoy.

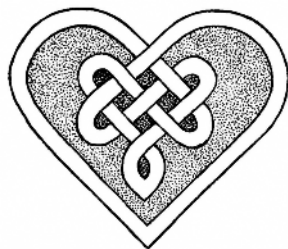
One minister who ran a 'Christmas Alone' event said, "We run lunch clubs and a dementia friendly café. We've actually organised holidays where people can go away together. Hopefully we can engage with people in their isolation and draw them into the family of faith.

Years and years ago, neighbours would have looked after neighbours and I think one of the most fundamental things we can do is be good neighbours.

We are often very money rich in this country but time poor, so when you give someone time you are actually giving them a very precious gift."

14 February Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.



The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia.

Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.



PASSWORDS - SOME TIPS

"Password", "12345678", "keithwood".

Are these any good as passwords? No! Anyone wanting to hack into files protected by these will crack it in a second or two.

What about "blackdog"? It's getting better, but "blackdog51" is better still.

Now let's look at something really strong - ten digits of random upper and lower case letters - numbers and symbols you find on the top line of your qwerty keyboard. Here's an example "d9m%eG8L5c2". Try cracking that!

But let's have a look at a problem I came across earlier this month. I was trying to upload the website file to the website and totally failed. I phoned the domain hosting company and we went through everything.

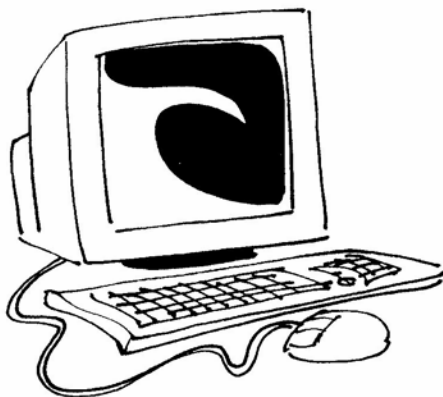
Eventually the technician asked me what password I was using. I gave it to him and it ended with the sign £.

After a lengthy pause he said "I suspect that might be the problem because £ can have two different interpretations on a computer.

Let's change it." Change it we did and instantly everything was OK.

So avoid using £ in your strong passwords.

From Keith Wood ACE Forum



RUBBISH FINES

From News reports in EalingToday.co.uk

Ealing Council has been accused of incompetence after contractors issued fines to a woman who poured coffee down the drain, and another who left additional recycling outside her own home next to her blue bin after the Christmas holidays.

A council spokesperson said, "Residents want us to keep the borough clean and support our efforts to tackle litter louts and fly-tippers. The vast majority of fines are correctly issued, but unfortunately in these two cases officers made an error of judgement. We have now cancelled the fines, apologised to the residents and asked Kingdom to remind all staff of the common sense approach we expect."



Better than shortbread biscuits!

One Sunday at an informal meeting for worship, the new minister asked if anyone would like to lead in prayer.

One of the older members stood up and prayed on these lines: "As you know Lord, I am not all that keen on butter and I have to watch how much sugar I use. Also, my doctor tells me that I should avoid things which are made with flour." At this point, the minister opened his eyes and wondered what was coming next.

The man continued, "But I know this Lord, that after we mix these things together and bake the mixture in a hot oven, we get the most lovely shortbread biscuits." Still the minister was perplexed, wondering where this was heading.

"Help us to realise, Lord," the old man went on, "that when we come across things we don't like, and people we don't much care for, we should wait to see what you are cooking up.

Help us to be patient, Lord, because when you have finished your mixing and baking, our fellowship here might turn out to be even better than shortbread biscuits. Amen"

Change Management

"Hi Tony, didn't see you at church yesterday. Everything okay?"

"Fine, thanks, Bill. Work reared its ugly head. Had to go away to a training conference."

"Working all weekend, heh. Glad I'm my own boss these days. Anything exciting?"

"Change management. Three-line whip for all the top brass to attend. We're merging with Moneywise, if you know them."

"Yes indeed. Big set up. No doubt they'll be bringing new management culture, new working practices..."

"...New business software, new pensions. Most of us should keep our jobs but there's a lot of unease."

"So, was the conference any use?"

"Oh yes. For once! The speakers really made us re-evaluate how we'd been doing things."

"So, let me guess. You'd just been informing the workforce what was going to happen? Selling them the management vision?"

"Got it in one! No wonder they felt threatened."

"Yep. They'll feel everything's already been decided. It's beyond their control. Disempowerment, as they say."

"Exactly. So now I realise just how much time and effort we need to invest in talking through the issues with the workforce. Winning their agreement about why we need to change and how to do it."

"And, I would imagine, getting people to know and trust their new colleagues?"

"And how! But if we're patient and go about it openly it's surprising how well people will adapt."

"Agreed. By the way, I didn't see you at church the previous Sunday. Work again?"

"No, I've been drifting lately. Don't care for the way things are going at our Church"

"You're kidding. I thought we were doing well in terms of bringing new folk through the door."

"Yes, plenty of new faces. But I don't like the way they want to do things. The new service formats, new projects, everything really. And they're just not our type of people. It's no longer the church we joined."

"Actually, you're not the first person I've heard say that. But, hang on – weren't you on the outreach group to find ways of attracting newcomers?"

"Sure."

"And didn't Liz co-ordinate Prayer for Growth? Asking the Holy Spirit for renewal?"

"Right again."

"So what's the problem?"

"It's just that, well, we never expected the Holy Spirit to change things so much."

"Or so quickly?"

"Quite."

Harry Hunter

Ealing Animal Welfare
BAZAAR
Hanwell Methodist Church
Church Road, London, W7 1DJ
Saturday 4th March 2017
10:30am - 4:00pm
A wide range of participating societies
Guest speakers
admission
FREE
Now in its 39th year
www.animalwelfarebazaar.info



COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3rd February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

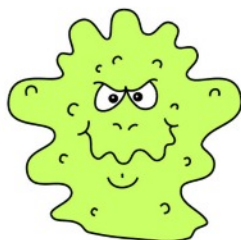


A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

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

cold fever flu hankie influenza
linctus medicine nose pill
shivers sniffles tablet throat
tissues winter



What happen if your nose runs and your feet smell?

You're built upside down!

What sort of transport gives people colds?

A-choo-choo-trains.

COMING EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN and in the Circuit

February

- Wed 1 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly - term time only)
Thu 2 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
Fri 3 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 the month)
Sat 4 10.15 am to 12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
Mon 5 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
Tue 7 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - 'The History of Pears Soap'
A talk by Miss Andrea Cameron
Thu 9 19.30 Circuit Policy Group at Kingsdown
Sat 11 10-12.30 pm Book Fair with stalls and refreshments
In aid of JMA/Mwib. Admission free.
- Tue 21 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Entertainment with
Graham Jenkins
Thu 23 Circuit Meeting at Pitshanger see pp 5 - 9 for more
background information.

March

- Sat 4 Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar at Hanwell. Admission
Free
Sun 5 16.00 Iris Axon Concert at Acton Hill - The Kingsway Trio
(£6.00, £5.00 concessions, £2.00 children)

Sat 6 May Concert by Heinz Chapel Choir see p 18



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

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